

The Middlebury Campus

APRIL 9, 2015 | VOL. 113 NO. 21 | MIDDLEBURYCAMPUS.COM

Hazing Violation Suspends KDR

By Joe Flaherty

The College suspended the social house Kappa Delta Rho (KDR) on March 24 after it concluded KDR members had violated the College's hazing policy. KDR residential members were required to move out of the house by April 6. The house will remain unoccupied for the remainder of the semester.

A statement from the College provided to the *Campus* said, "From its investigation, the College determined that current KDR members had violated the College's hazing policy in a number of areas, including verbal abuse, blindfolding, and encouraging the use of alcohol."

Administrators in the Dean of Students office as well as the KDR leadership declined to comment on the details of the hazing allegations, citing privacy concerns and the need to keep the specifics of the investigation confidential.

The events that took place to initiate the investigation occurred during the fall semester. On Nov. 24, the College received word of a possible hazing policy violation by KDR. On Dec. 10, then-Dean of the College Shirley Collado informed KDR that the organization was officially on probation and could not hold any activities until the investigation was completed.

According to the Dean of Students office, a student brought forward the hazing allegations against KDR.

The concerns were over house activities that were a part of new member education: the activities to acquaint new members with the house that are akin to the initiation activities

that take place in Greek life at other colleges and universities.

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of the College Katy Smith Abbott made the determination that the hazing policy was violated after an investigation by the Department of Public Safety. The sanction, as communicated to KDR, was suspension of the student organization. KDR members are eligible for other college housing during the housing draw for next semester. KDR also cannot recruit new members and cannot hold activities until the suspension period is complete.

The College handbook states, "For purposes of this policy, hazing is defined as any act committed by a person, whether individually or in concert with others, against a student in connection with pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, participating in, or maintaining membership in any organization or team affiliated with Middlebury College; and which is intended to have the effect of, or should reasonably be expected to have the effect of, humiliating, intimidating or demeaning the student or endangering the mental or physical health of the student."

KDR will have the opportunity to reapply to the Student Government Association to return as a student organization in December 2015. If criteria are met, they can petition Community Council in spring 2016 to return as a residential social house and participate in Inter-House Council (IHC) functions. If approved by Community

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IVAN VALLADARES

Residents of the Kappa Delta Rho (KDR) social house were forced to move out after KDR was suspended for hazing on March 24. The house, pictured here, will remain unoccupied until the fall.

THE CLASS OF 2019 // AT A GLANCE

Out of **8,894** applicants, just **1,512** students were accepted. That's **17%**

20%
of incoming students were admitted through early decision

Expected enrollment:
590 Regs & **100** Febs

\$10.6 MILLION
will be awarded in need-based financial aid

17%
of admitted students were first-generation applicants

50
countries will be represented by the class of 2019

EVAN GALLAGHER

College Mourns Nathan Alexander '17



EMILIE MUNSON

On April 7, students gathered in Mead Chapel for a candlelight vigil to honor Nathan's life.

By Christian Jambora and Phil Bohlman

On Thursday, April 2, Nathan Alexander '17 was found in his room in Milliken Hall after taking his own life.

President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz announced Nathan's passing in an email addressed to students, staff, and faculty.

"We know this comes as a great shock to his many friends, classmates, and faculty members. Public Safety discovered Nathan after receiving a request from a fellow student who was concerned about his whereabouts," he wrote.

The request was submitted by Maggie Nazer '17, a close friend of Nathan who last saw him three days before he was discovered.

"His girlfriend messaged me worried because she had

been messaging Nathan for hours and had not heard back from him. I kept texting him and went to his room to check if he was there," Nazer said in an email. "All along, I believed he was either too stressed with work to answer or simply needed space from us."

Nazer reached out to Nathan's sister and discovered he had not been replying to her messages.

"This is when I thought there must be something wrong and called Public Safety," she said.

A Public Safety officer discovered Nathan in his room, where emergency medical services pronounced him dead. The cause of death was asphyxiation. In the late afternoon, upon receiving confirmation that the family had been noti-

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COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

By Emma Dunlap

The Community Council met twice in late March to address the end of the year agenda.

On March 16, Community Council hosted two presenters from Weybridge house: Gabriel Antonucci '17 and Laura Xiao '17 for the purpose of clarifying Weybridge house's mission.

Weybridge house's original mission was related to environmental studies and has over time become more food and sustainability focused. The house looks to "promote living sustainably and show that it is possible to live on a local diet... it is not a privileged idea...you can feed people (both) locally and affordably," said Xiao.

Students living at the house eat about 50 percent of their meals on the house budget, according to Xiao. Weybridge houses 18 students who work to promote local food by buying from select local farmers. With both a residential life budget and a budget as a student organization, Weybridge hosts small dinners for about 25 people every Mon. and Wed., as well as a Sat. brunch that are all open to the Middlebury community. The house also hosts a yearly event titled "Feast" that feeds about 300 people.

On Mar. 30, Community Council discussed a proposal recently passed by the SGA Senate to extend Thanksgiving break to include the Mon. and Tues. of Thanksgiving week. SGA President Taylor Custer '15 presented statistics from a recent student survey in which 60 percent of the student body responded.

According to Custer, of the students that responded, 33.5 percent skipped 1 or more classes in anticipation of the break and 78 percent wished the break were the whole week. The proposal passed the council with nine supporting, three opposed and one abstaining.

Community Council Co-Chair Ben Bogin '15 then presented an idea to create a Middlebury Art Market or a like-minded system in which student artists could sell or rent their artwork to other students for their dorm rooms. Along with this, he proposed the idea of allowing dorm rooms to be painted different colors, potentially being a way to "increase student ownership of spaces," said Bogin. "Maybe if people had more real artwork in their rooms they would be more responsible...it could decrease dorm damage."

On April 6, Community Council member Anna Jacobsen '16 brought forth a new proposition, proposing that the college integrate a policy that replaces some student fines and fees for infractions with community service. The purpose being both that fines and fees are harder for some people to pay, and for those who it does not pose any hardship it may not deter them from committing another infraction.

Jacobsen proposed that it begin as a "pilot project" starting with fire violations where instead of paying 300 dollars a student would work at the dining hall for a given amount of time equal to the monetary worth. Council member Emma Bliska '18 asked if the proposal allowed for students to choose between paying a fine or community service. "I think that one of the purposes of it being work is that all students are punished equally," responded Jacobsen. "There are lots of other ways to go about this other than fines... loss of privileges would be impactful...such as you can't live in a suit, can't run for office in a club, or lose your room draw," said Associate Dean of

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Community Grieves Loss of Student

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fied, Liebowitz sent an email informing the College community.

"At a difficult time such as this, I encourage everyone on campus to look out for one another," he wrote.

That evening, students, staff, and faculty were invited to gather in Coltrane Lounge, where staff members from the Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life, Parton Center for Health and Wellness, and members of the Commons team offered support.

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of the College Katy Smith Abbott announced a schedule of opportunities for students, staff, and faculty members to gather in remembrance and support.

A candlelight vigil was held in Nathan's honor on Apr. 6 in Mead Chapel. From Apr. 7 to Apr. 9, community members were invited to the Fireplace Lounge in Ross Commons Dining for conversation and reflection.

"I encourage you to find ways to address your own feelings, questions, and concerns—whether in one of the scheduled gatherings, with your dean, with one of the counselors at Parton Center for Health and Counseling, with a chaplain at the Scott Center, or with friends," Smith Abbott said in her email.

She continued, "If you, or someone you know, might need help over the next days and weeks, please reach out to one of us."

Nathan's girlfriend, Mariam Sultan '16, was studying abroad in Sri Lanka when she learned of Nathan's death.

"Take advantage of the moments to be as kind as you can to others because you never know when you will have another chance to," she said. "The last thing Nathan told me was that he loved me. He told me he was lucky to have met me, and I told him the same."

Nathan was a graduate of The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut,

Upcoming Events to Honor Nathan Alexander

Thursday (April 9th)

• from 9:00 PM - 10:00 PM the Fireplace Lounge in Ross will be open for you to stop by. Members of the student affairs staff will be there for conversation.

Sunday (April 12th)

• at 11:00 AM a campus-wide memorial service will take place in Mead Chapel

** There will be an additional service in the Denver area on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at 2:30 PM at Jefferson Unitarian Church, 14350 W 32nd Ave, Golden, Colorado.

Condolence messages may be sent to:

Marilyn Chappell
433 South Quay St.
Lakewood, CO 80226

Barton and Joan Alexander
404 Clayton St.
Denver, CO 80206

Memorial donations

May be made in Nathan's name, according to the family's wishes, to the scholarship funds of either the Hotchkiss School or Middlebury College.

The Hotchkiss Fund
The Hotchkiss School
11 Interlaken Rd.

Ron and Jessica Liebowitz Scholarship Fund
Middlebury College
700 Exchange Street

DAISY WILLIAMSON

where he developed interests in public policy and a passion for sailing. At the College, he had not yet declared a major but took courses in economics and political science.

His loss is deeply felt by those who knew him.

"I think that this tragic incident has the potential to inspire a collective transformation of the social environment and our relationships on campus," said Nazer.

She continued, "Many of us suffer quietly as we greet each other and take part in social gatherings that often make us feel more isolated. Reaching out and showing support should not only be an intention that remains in the form of texts or words but also an action. Hav-

ing someone go out of their way to come knock at your door is better than just sending you a text. But before everything else we must find the strength and courage to open up to each other, be real, be vulnerable, and take it from there."

If someone you know exhibits warning signs of suicide:

- Do not leave the person alone
- Remove any firearms, alcohol, drugs or sharp objects that could be used in a suicide attempt
- Call the U.S. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255)
- Take the person to an emergency room or seek help from a medical or mental health professional

New Head of Atwater Commons

By Holden Barnett

Next fall, Sandra Carletti, professor of Italian at the College, will assume the position of Head of Atwater Commons. The previous Co-Heads, Peter and Michelle Nelson, are resigning after a long and successful run.

Although terms for Commons Heads generally last five years, the Nelsons were given a one year extension for familial reasons. This extension, combined with Mr. Nelson's one year sabbatical in 2009, lead to their term lasting for a total of seven years.

When asked what addition to the Commons he was most proud of, Mr. Nelson, a professor of Geography at the College, responded that watching the monthly family-style dinners that he and Mrs. Nelson introduced grow and evolve has been a particularly validating experience. The dinners' ability to gather students and faculty together in open discussion he believes are, "emblematic of the goals of the Commons system."

The Nelsons are not leaving their position as Co-Heads eagerly. They both felt that it was time to hand over the position to someone who could dedicate more time to the Commons; Mr. Nelson is beginning his sabbatical in July and their children are both transitioning into high school and middle school.

Sandra Carletti, an Italian native and graduate of the University of Bologna and Johns Hopkins, has been a professor of Italian at the college for over 20 years, an experience that she says has influenced her decision to become the Head of Atwater Commons.

"As a member of the Italian department, I was already involved in the culture, the philosophy of the Commons, of bridging the gap between the classroom

and the extracurricular activities," she said. "I've always enjoyed that part of our job, the relationship that you form with the students that goes beyond the classroom. There's something of value there and something that I'd like to continue, and I think that the Commons gives you the opportunity to go a little bit deeper into these relationships that you form with the students."

Carletti is not the only Commons Head who is also a member of the Italian department. Her colleagues Patricia Zupan and Stefano Mula have also served as Commons Heads. Thus, she said, "it has been kind of natural for all of us in the Italian department to participate in the activities, to organize events, and to connect with students."

Among the traits that she finds important for the role of Commons Head, she sees the ability to listen to students and be genuinely curious about students' lives to be a particularly important trait.

"All of the work that is included in the Commons is for the benefit of the students. We all benefit from it by establishing relationships that go beyond the classroom... but ultimately it is for the students," she said.

The first thing she intends to do as Head of Atwater Commons is to ask the students what they would actually look forward to doing, not just what they feel obligated to do. She would like to "involve the students as much as possible as generators of Commons activities, not just users."

As someone who is deeply involved in the creation of a Food Studies program on campus, one goal of Carletti's is to combine her interest and research in the subject with her position as Head of the Commons to make Atwater "a hub for everything that is Food Studies" on

campus.

"And I'm not just thinking of cooking together," she clarifies. "I'm really thinking about exploring issues that are related to food. We all have to eat. Food is a very important part of our lives, and right now food is also a growing discipline within colleges and universities. It is something that people really pause and think about and study."

Another goal of hers is to involve not only the College community in the Commons, but also people from the surrounding area.

"There is also community outside of the college, our neighbors, that are very much, whether they like it or not, a part of our community," she said.

In order to involve these people, she is considering organizing service events as well as community dinners in which neighbors outside of the college community are invited to join.

When asked what her ultimate goals for the Commons are, she said that her "hopes for the Commons will be to become more and more a place where students feel very comfortable going and hanging out and being involved."

"You are far away from home. What is it you miss the most? What is it that you do not have, for example, in your everyday life that the Commons, in a way, could supply?" she asked.

Finally, she would like to get rid of the apathy towards the Commons system that has become prevalent among some upperclassmen on campus.

"Sometimes I hear students kind of bragging about not even knowing what the Commons are, not being involved," she said. "That is a loss, I think, of resources. It's your loss if you don't know what they are and are not participating. I would like to change that."

KDR Members Asked to Vacate House

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Council, KDR can apply to occupy a social house in the fall of 2016. If KDR does not take these steps, they will remain suspended organizationally.

The KDR executive board spoke with the *Campus* on Monday night and provided some statements on behalf of the house as to the investigation, ruling, and plans going forward.

"We understand the administration's ruling and though we are saddened to not live in our house anymore, this has given us a great opportunity to reevaluate what our community means to us and how we can make it an even better place in the future," said one KDR board member.

Other board members emphasized learning from the experience of the investigation and decision and their desire to work with College President-elect Laurie Patton, Community Council, and Public Safety to improve the new member education process.

"I think it's important to keep in mind that for every education process we go through, safety and comfort are our top priorities and we have protocols in place to ensure that new members are feeling comfortable with our process," said a board member. "Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, there was a miscommunication that led to the investigation."

Additionally, the KDR leadership said that other student organizations should look at their own processes in the coming months, too.

"We will be taking this time to re-evaluate our education process, and we would also like to invite other organizations on campus to take a critical look at themselves and the way they recruit members," said another board member.

The KDR suspension has parallels with previous College actions on social house misconduct. In November 2011, the College suspended all activities at KDR and Tavern, another social house,

after allegations of hazing emerged after the first day of the organizations' new member education week. Insufficient evidence was found in both KDR's and Tavern's cases. A similar pause of KDR activity took place in December 2013 to allow for an investigation into misconduct involving hazing during KDR's new member initiation week. Like the 2011 case, it was found there was insufficient evidence to support the hazing allegation.

In a different case, where a social house was not just suspended but disbanded, on March 18, 2013, Community Council accepted the Social House Review Committee's recommendation to disband Delta, also known as ADP, a social house occupying Prescott House. The Delta decision was largely based on dorm damage, cleanup and how the house conducted parties.

KDR is the only social house at the College that is a part of a national organization. Middlebury's KDR chapter is credited as the first, or the Alpha chapter, of the national fraternity Kappa Delta Rho. The College chapter began in 1905 and became coeducational in 1989, unlike the rest of the nationwide chapters.

Rod Abhari '15, vice president of the Mill and the president of the IHC, said the IHC felt they were left in the dark regarding on the specific hazing allegations and the ensuing investigation. As a result, the IHC is working to propose that they are allowed more oversight of new member education practices as well as investigations.

"For us, the main takeaway is that it seems to rob the IHC of any legitimate power if in something as integral to our governing administration as investigating hazing practices we have as little knowledge as the rest of the community," he said.

Abhari also said that despite this being the third investigation in four years into KDR's practices, students should

not draw conclusions or presume a pattern of misconduct.

"The pattern I see is more people being comfortable going to the administration when they feel concerned and the administration taking a proactive role," Abhari said. "The pattern is not that there is more hazing from KDR because the investigations were inconclusive prior to this one."

Because the hazing details remain confidential, most students felt it is difficult to comment on what transpired.

"As to the allegations, we can't speak to that because the whole process has been fairly closed-door," said Eli Jones '16, the president of Tavern. "We don't really know what happened and we don't know what they did but I think that they made a mistake and we hope they learn from it."

Jones also said that Tavern hopes to see KDR return as a student organization because of the impact on social life in its absence.

"In a similar way to [ADP's disbandment], KDR might not be your place to go, but it is an important part of social life for a portion of the population," Jones said. "We're a little bit concerned because with ADP gone and with KDR suspended, the social house system seems to be crumbling, to an extent."

Rebecca Watson '15, a former president of Xenia, the substance-free house on campus, echoed Abhari's comments on IHC governance.

"It's a bit of a blow to the IHC credibility. The school gives us the opportunity to self-govern, which I felt we as social house heads were doing well. But to have KDR suspended makes houses feel like they don't have control," Watson said.

According to the College's statement, the hazing investigation has not been closed and took several months because of its complexity. "Middlebury College will advise if additional facts are forthcoming that might impact the sanctions in any way," said the statement.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

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Students for Residential Life & Student Life Policy Doug Adams.

Community Council Co-Chair and Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of the College Katy Smith Abbott took a moment to talk about Middlebury's recent loss of Nathan Alexander last Thursday. "This is a really hard moment for a small community like us," Smith Abbott said. Responding to a recent petition signed by students asking for a response from Middlebury's staff and faculty, Abbott said that the administration "of course cares deeply about what's happening...but we cannot inform the community until the family is informed." Jacobsen said that "the recent tragedy has made talking about mental health on this campus a priority for me."

The Council also discussed the potential of placing surveillance cameras at various points around campus. About \$1200 worth of student's belongings were stolen over the course of 3 months such as backpacks that are lined up outside of dining halls. If the cameras were to be established, they would not be monitored but used only if there is a need such as in the case of a reported theft. Some students were concerned with the precedent this would set. "What point have we come to as a community that we need surveillance? Is that really the route we want to take to address theft," said Community Council member Ilana Gratch '16.5. "Middlebury is a unique place that does not have surveillance...We have a very open community and with an open community, there is a vast amount of responsibility that people don't always take...(we could) take advantage of technology to make us a little safer," said Adams.



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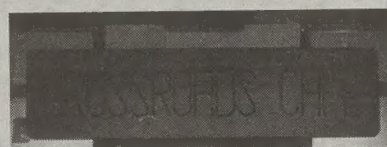
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SATURDAY 9-11 PM

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SUNDAY AT 4 P.M.

Atwater Dinner with the Southern Society

TUESDAY AT 6 P.M.

LOCAL

The Middlebury Campus

Maple Season Comes to Vermont Late This Year

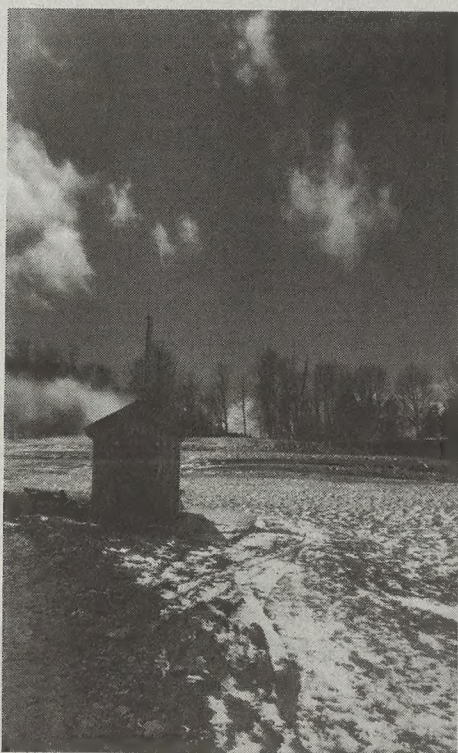
By Grace Levin

Spring thaw marks the start of maple syrup season in Vermont. Across the state, trees will be tapped, sap will be boiled, and pancakes will be doused in fresh syrup to mark the beginning of spring.

Vermont is known as the maple capital of America with 1500 sugarhouses producing 40 percent of the nation's maple syrup, according to the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association.

"Vermont is able to produce a high quantity of syrup due to the high concentration of sugar maples in the area," farmer Ben Freund from Open View Farm said.

Located in New Haven, Open View Farm produces maple syrup on a 180-acre plot with 1400 maple trees.



GRACE LEVIN

Open View Farm Sugaring House in VT

"This is a pretty small operation. Some days you're not able to see because it gets so steamy [from the boiling]. If it's warmer out, it will be raining in here, because of all the condensation."

BEN FREUND

FARMER FROM OPEN VIEW FARM

"I started out with one tree in my grandma's backyard, and it grew from there," Freund said.

Freund boils maple sap in a wood cabin located behind his barn.

"This is a pretty small operation. Some days you're not able to see because

it gets so steamy [from the boiling]. If it's warmer out, it will be raining in here, because of all the condensation" Freund told the group.

After tapping the trees and collecting the sap, Freund uses a reverse osmosis system to remove water from the sap and increase the sugar concentra-

tion.

"The reverse osmosis happens in the shop. We have a little room in there that is heated so the sap can't freeze. One day we hope to have everything in one building," Freund said, pointing to the smaller structure.

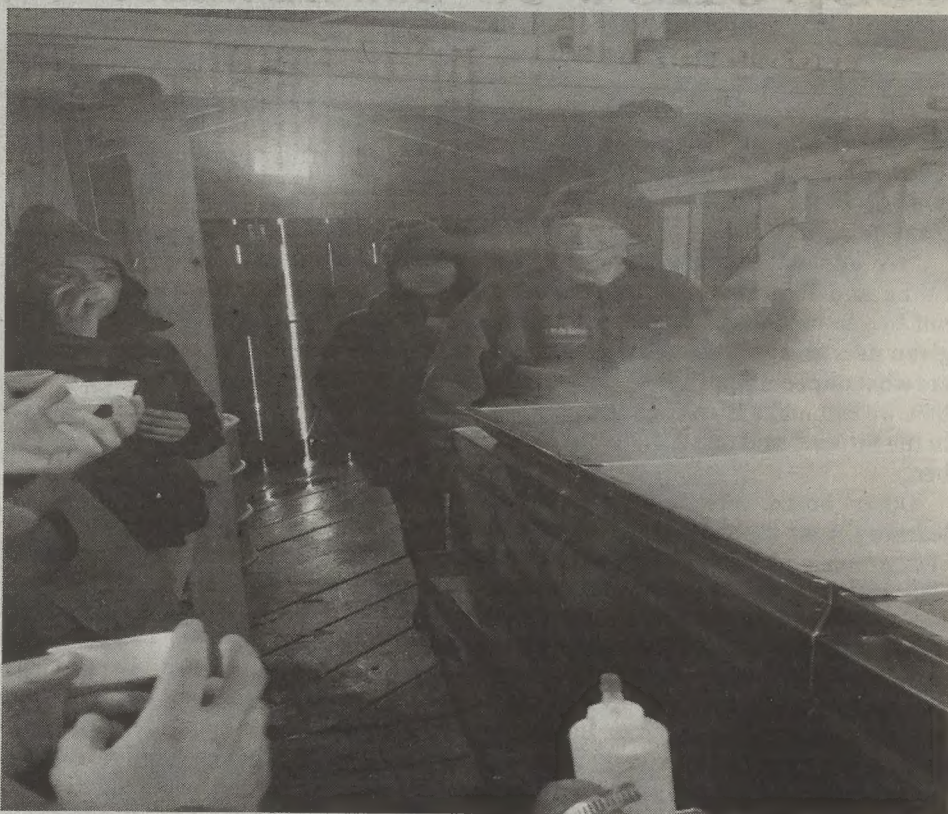
Freund then boils the sap in an evaporator to remove more water. Metal pans sit atop an arch or firebox, and the wood fueled fire evaporates water from the bubbling sap to create sweet concentrated syrup.

"The concentrate will be running at 10 percent sugar content [when put into the evaporator]. Some big commercial producers will concentrate up to 18 percent to 22 percent, which is great on fuel because the concentrate spends less time on the arch, but you lose flavor," Freund said.

The evaporator finally reaches a temperature around 220 °F creating a syrup with about 66 percent sugar content and a very steamy room.

"The significance of the temperature is the density of the syrup," Freund explained.

The outside temperature also plays a role in the maple sugaring process. The optimal temperature is between 20° F to



GRACE LEVIN

Visitors at Open View Farm taste maple syrup samples as sap boils in the house.

40°F, making March and April the best time of year for sugarhouses. During this time of year, the nights are cool and the days are warm, making the optimal conditions for sap to run from the trees.

"The cold weather creates pressure, but the thaw allows the sap to run," Freund said, talking about the ideal temperature conditions.

To celebrate the season, the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association sponsored the statewide Maple Open House Weekend from March 28 to 29. Sugarhouses across Vermont opened to the public for tours and syrup tastings.

"Sugar makers register and get their sugar houses posted. People can come, see what's going on, and have some syrup," Freund said of this annual weekend event.

A successful syrup season is no guarantee, as sugar makers must face the challenges of changing weather year to year. Due to the cold front that has dominated Vermont's winter and early spring, many sugar makers have gotten

a late start.

Fred Boyden from Boyden Farm in Cambridge Vermont told the *Burlington Free Press*, "This year has definitely been a little different; we've only sugared a couple times since the beginning of the season."

Despite the difficulties and variability of the trade, maple syrup remains a staple of Vermont culture and continues to be a growing industry.

"We are seeing people tapping a sugarbush who have never sugared before," Matt Gordon, executive director of the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association said in a press release. Many people who may not rely on maple sugaring for their income choose to tap a sugarbush (a group of sugar maple trees) for their own use.

When Freund had fully boiled and filtered the sap, warm maple syrup was ready for the tasting and a sugary sweet steam billowed out of the cabin into April's fresh spring air.



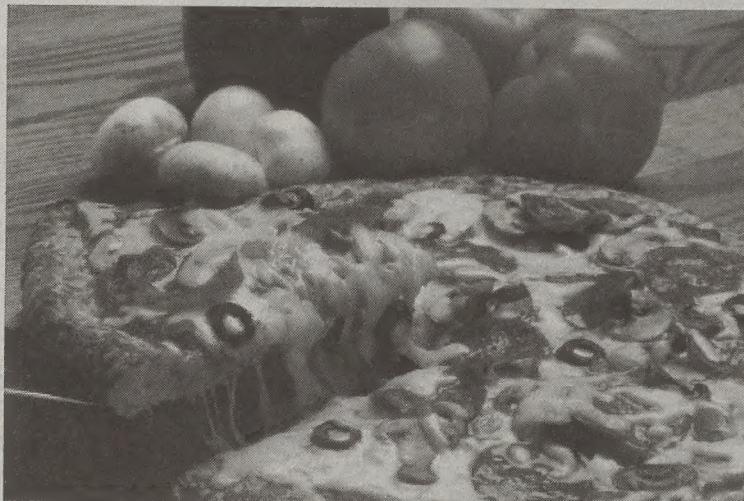
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Vt. House Passes Resolution in Response to Indiana Controversy

By Isabelle Dietz

Last Friday, April 3, the Vermont House adopted a House Resolution, H.R.8, that expresses "strong opposition to state religious freedom restoration legislation that authorizes discrimination based on sexual orientation." This comes as a response to Indiana's passage of the controversial Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

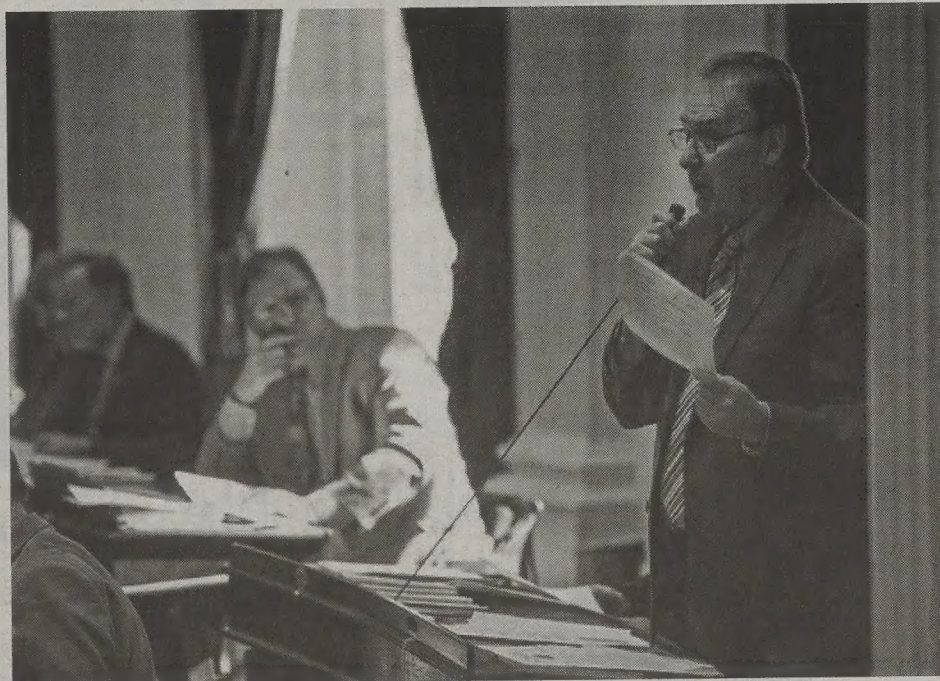
"I am proud that Vermont has taken a stand. What the resolution does, more than anything, is to confirm our own core values as citizens of this great state," Representative Steven Berry (D) from Bennington, one of the resolution's sponsors, said. "In the end we all breathe the same air, drink the same water, share the earth, and have within our hearts a like desire for life, liberty and, however we define it, our own pursuit of happiness....What Indiana is seeking to do is to undo what people have fought long and hard at great personal cost, to overcome. I choose not to go backward. Thus I affixed my name."

There was bipartisan support for this resolution, which passed in a vote of 119 to 1. 30 representatives were absent on the date of the vote.

"Vermont has plenty of challenges within its borders," Rep. Warren Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh, the only opposition vote, said in a statement. "I am not interested in passing judgments on the actions of the legislatures of the other 49 states unless they directly affect the substantive well-being of the State of Vermont and its residents."

For many of the other representatives, this resolution was a way for Vermont to respond to laws such as those passed in Indiana.

"My aunt who lives in Indianapolis had contacted me to let me know how embarrassed she was with Indiana's newly enacted religious freedom law," Rep. Susan Hatch Davis, a Democrat and Progressive of Orange Country and one of the resolution's sponsors, said. "A law which could only be described as a thinly veiled attempt to promote an endorse discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. For me, Vermont has long time been a state who respects and values contributions of everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, who lives, works and visits here. I could not in good conscience support laws such



COURTESY GLENN RUSSELL, BURLINGTON FREE PRESS

Representative Paul Poirier, I-Barre City, at the statehouse in Montpelier on Friday.

as Indiana's newly enacted law that made discrimination legal, particularly against LGBT people. Vermont needed to stand against the law. Hence the resolution."

This resolution came in response to the massive controversy over Indiana's religious freedom law. Many claim that the law could be used to discriminate against LGBT groups. Several organizations and leaders expressed dissatisfaction with the law, including Subaru, the NCAA and Tim Cook of Apple. Now the Vermont House has taken a stand against it as well.

STEVEN BERRY

VERMONT STATE REPRESENTATIVE (D)

"Vermont has a long-standing tradition of inclusion," noted Representative Herb Russell (D) from Rutland in the House notes. "We are proudly known for our diversity. As a gay man who chose to move here, first returning member of my family since 1816, I considered this place a natural choice. I reaffirm our motto 'Freedom and Unity' by joining all LGBT Vermonters in voting yes for this resolution on this Good Friday."

The Disciples of Christ, a religious organization, also protested against the law and plans to move their Indiana convention in response to it.

On March 31, Governor Shumlin offered up Vermont as a welcoming state to any conventions that wished to move out of Indiana.

He wrote a letter to the union American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), inviting them to relocate their 2015 Women's Conference to Vermont. The union, which is the largest trade union of public employees in the United States, canceled plans for their conference location in Indiana after the religious freedoms law was passed.

"Our state has a long, proud tradition of supporting equal rights," Shumlin wrote in his letter. "Vermont was the first state to outlaw slavery and the first state to legislate marriage equality sim-

ply because it was the right thing to do, not because a court mandated it. In that tradition, we would be proud to work with you to determine if Vermont has facilities that can accommodate your conference, and if so, relocate it to the Green Mountains."

In addition, Shumlin banned all non-essential state-funded travel to Indiana on March 31. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy also imposed similar bans.

There are supporters of the religious freedom law. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) has repeatedly spoken out in favor of it, and called the move "brave."

Memories Pizza of Walkerton, Indiana, came under fire after its owner announced that she would refuse to cater gay or lesbian weddings because of her religious beliefs.

The restaurant's Yelp page was overwhelmed with comments (including threats) and in response, a crowd-fund page for the pizza shop raised over \$840,000 to support them in only three days and is no longer accepting donations.

In response to considerable backlash, Indiana's Governor Mike Pence signed a bill on April 2 to clarify that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act does not allow businesses to refuse to serve LGBT individuals or other minority groups.

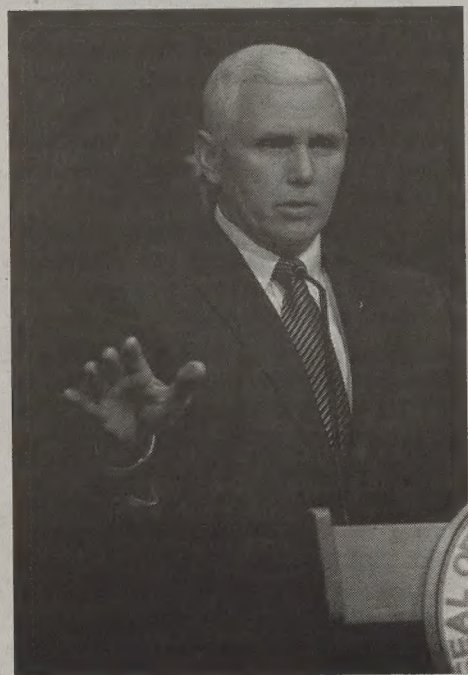
"Over the past week this law has become a subject of great misunderstanding and controversy across our state and nation," Pence said in a statement. "However we got here, we are where we are, and it is important that our state take action to address the concerns that have been raised and move forward."

PETER SHUMLIN
GOVERNOR OF VERMONT

"Now that this is behind us, let's move forward together with a renewed commitment to the civility and respect that make this state great."

To restore their image, many businesses in Indiana have participated in a window sticker campaign to tell the public that all customers are welcome. The blue stickers read, "This business serves everyone" to clarify that they do not discriminate.

"Our state has a long, proud tradition of supporting equal rights. Vermont was the the first state to outlaw slavery and the first state to legislate marriage equality simply because it was the right thing to do."



COURTESY MICHAEL CONROY, AP

Gov. Mike Pence speaks at the statehouse.

LOCAL LOWDOWN 09

"The Last Five Years" on Stage

Do you want a night out at the theater? Go to the Town Hall Theater tonight at 8 p.m. to see "The Last Five Years," a one-of-a-kind musical. Directed by Doug Anderson and starring Kim Anderson and Middlebury College senior Mike McCann '15, this performance will not disappoint! Thought by many to be one of the best musicals written in the last 20 years, the story captures all of the tumultuous emotions of a failed relationship. Tickets are \$17 for the public, \$6 for students.

APR. 9, 11, 12, 8 PM

Monthly Wildlife Walk

Now that the ice has melted, there is no excuse to not take advantage of the outdoors! Sponsored by the Otter Creek Audubon Society (OCAS) and MALT, this monthly event gives members of the community to explore Otter View Park, an open 15-acre park hosting wildlife habitat, wetlands and access to Otter Creek. This week, the focus will be on surveying birds and other wildlife. Don't miss the opportunity to broaden your environmental education! Meet at Otter View Park parking area, at the corner of Weybridge Street and Pulp Mill Bridge Road. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. For more information call (802) 388-1007.

APR. 9, 8 AM

Edgewater Gallery Opening Reception

Are you eager to support local artists in Middlebury? Go to the opening of Kathryn Milillo's "Come What May" exhibit at Edgewater Gallery. Wanting to "see with understanding," Milillo created an exhibit of 14 oil-on-linen paintings. The exhibit runs until April 30. For more information, call 802-458-0098 or email edgewater-gallery-vt.com

APR. 10, 5-7 PM

Standup Comedy Show in Bristol

There is no better way to finish off your week than with a laugh. Don't miss the opportunity to see comedians Annie Russell, Ryan Kriger and Sean Williams, with Tracie Spencer of the Vermont Comedy Divas as the show's headliner. Hosted by comedian Tony Bates, this event is bound to be a success. As if the talent was not enough, there will also be refreshments available after the show. As this event contains mature themes, it is only for ages 16 and up.

APR. 10, 7:30 PM

Treasures and Trinkets Sale in Vergennes

If you're on the hunt for one-of-a-kind items for great deals, then this event is for you! Sponsored by Vergennes Union High School, The Commodore Parent Teacher Group invites members of the community to a department store style event to shop for used furniture, rugs, jewelry, clothing, tools, sporting equipment, household goods, crafts, books and special collectibles.

APR. 11, 8 AM -2 PM

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The Middlebury Campus

OPINIONS

The Middlebury Campus

Remembering Nathan, as a Community

When the Middlebury community learned of the death of one of our own – Nathan Alexander '17 – we were shocked and saddened. We at the *Campus* deeply felt this loss and decided that at this time no other subject was as important to the community as the death of one of our students. We cannot hope to fully express the impact that this loss will have on our community or on each of us individually. Yet, whether

EDITORIAL

The editorial represents the official opinion of the editorial board of *The Middlebury Campus*.

The Middlebury Campus

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The Middlebury Campus (USPS 556-060), the student newspaper of Middlebury College, is published by *The Middlebury Campus Publications*. Publication is every Thursday of the academic year, except during official college vacation periods and final examinations. Editorial and business offices are located in Hepburn Hall Annex, Middlebury College. *The Middlebury Campus* is produced on Apple Macintosh computers using Adobe InDesign CS5 and is printed by the Press Republican in New York. The advertising deadline for all display and classified advertising is 5 p.m. Friday for the following week's issue. Mailing address: *The Middlebury Campus*, Drawer 30, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt., 05753. Business phone: (802) 443-5737. Please address distribution concerns to the Business Director. First class postage paid at Middlebury, Vt., 05753.

or not we knew Nathan personally, we grieve that Middlebury College is now suddenly and tragically one less.

In difficult times such as these, it is easy for us to feel isolated and to withdraw into ourselves. But despite this impulse, now is the time to reach out to our fellow students. Each time we reach out to one another – even for a brief check-in – we tighten the bonds that create this community. It is this care for each other that will keep us afloat in times of pain and confusion. As our President, all Commons Deans and Parton Health Center staff have rightly repeated: look after those around you, be they close friends or simply classmates. But as we reach out to one another, we must remember that each of us grieves in our own individual way, and it is important to respect each other's processes. Those who were close to Nathan are in pain right now and we must be mindful of how our actions will affect them in particular.

While the shock of losing Nathan may eventually diminish, our memo-

ries of him will not fade. Many meetings, events and classes have begun with moments of silence in remembrance of his life. On Monday night, there was a candlelight vigil in his honor. Throughout the week, including tonight, Ross Commons is holding open hours from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Fireplace Lounge. This Sunday there will be a service in Mead Chapel at 11 a.m. The service is open to all members of the community and will be followed by a reception with Nathan's family in Redfield-Proctor. We urge students to take advantage of these opportunities to celebrate Nathan's life.

We also urge students to take advantage of the support resources offered by the Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life, Parton Center for Health and Wellness and the Commons teams. These resources are here to support us in this time of grief and pain. A drop-in grief support group will be held every Friday at 2 p.m. for the rest of the semester. Chaplains are available for appointments at (802) 443-5626, and individual counseling

sessions at Parton Counseling can be scheduled at (802) 443-5141. When offices are closed, the Department of Public Safety at (802) 443-5911 can connect you to support staff. Counseling Services of Addison County is also available 24-hours-a-day at (802) 388-6741.

The outpouring of support from the College and fellow students in response to Nathan's passing ought to give a clear message that we are a community – one that is built around neither Panther pride nor school spirit, but compassion and care for your peers. If we do not take care of one another, we have no community, let alone one to be proud of. Therefore, in these moments of mourning, it is more critical than ever that we live up to the meaning of this word, community. That we put our differences aside and recognize the unfathomable value of each other's lives. That we make it clear that none of us ever, ever have to be alone while we are students at this school. Rest in peace, Nathan. You are dearly missed.

Healing and Hope from Connections

I myself lost my father to suicide when I was 22 years old, as a senior in college, and I know how terribly painful this can be. I knew something was wrong in the days before his death, but I didn't have the

READER OP-ED

Gus Jordan is the Executive Director of Health and Counseling Services.

tools or understanding to make sense of what I was experiencing. Afterward, I felt not only grief and shock, but also confusion, anger and guilt. Was there something I missed? Was there something I could have done? These are very common, though excruciating, experiences that follow a death by suicide. Healing came slowly, but it did come – in the conversations I had with friends and family, and in our willingness to be open with each other about what had happened and how it affected us. Some sense of forgiveness and humility emerged in the realization that we are all human, and that we did all we knew how to do at the time.

Since then I have learned a lot more about the intense pain and loneliness as-

sociated with suicidal thoughts and behaviors. The most important thing I have learned is this: in the vast majority of cases, suicide can be prevented. Maybe not in my dad's case or in Nathan's case, but in most situations we can do something to help.

The most important thing we can do is to ask those we are worried about if they are thinking about hurting themselves or taking their own life. Ask them compassionately but directly. Believe me, in almost every case, those we ask will experience our concern with a sense of relief. Asking does not increase the chance of suicide. Asking does not put the thought in their head. Those are myths. A person experiencing suicidal ideation is losing hope, and our concern offers the best antidote there is: a reason to risk hoping again.

Then, encourage, persuade, accompany that friend, family member or colleague to professionals or others who can help.

So pay attention to the warning signs listed in the *Campus* today, and if you are worried about someone, ask them directly if they are thinking of harming themselves. In almost every case they will answer you truthfully, and that moment of honest hu-

man connection is the beginning of healing.

If you are experiencing suicidal thoughts, know this: you are not alone. In the last year, about 7 percent of college students here and across the country thought seriously about suicide. Having such thoughts is not a crime; talking about such thoughts will not get you sent home from school. Suicidal thoughts are common. They are also painful and scary; but you do not have to struggle with them alone. Counselors work with students having such thoughts every day. So tell someone – a friend, a counselor, a dean or just the person who lives next door – tell someone what is happening.

Today, some of us are feeling intense grief; some anger; some guilt; some of us are numb, or frightened, or depressed, or lonely, or just tired or distracted or stressed by daily life. There is nothing I can do now for my father or for Nathan but grieve and remember. But we can do something now for each other. Healing and hope come in our connections. Healing is not magic; healing is not always quick; but healing does happen.

The Illusion of Leisure

Middlebury is hard. I have found attending this college to be challenging and exciting, and my experience here has shown me that learning for the sake of itself may be the most rewarding of adventures.

READER OP-ED

Emily Bogin '16 is from Larkspur, Calif.

This adventure can be characterized as leisure: we are lucky to have this opportunity to study, to contemplate, to wonder, to imagine and to hypothesize. But I have also found Middlebury to aid and abet an unhealthy conception of success, as perhaps it must if it wants to be competitive as a globally leading liberal arts brand name. The importance of brand recognition at Middlebury creates an a-liberal environment that requires us to focus on achieving "success" rather than focusing on the health of our souls. We should strive for leisure, but also recognize that our investment in Middlebury as a brand poses an obstacle to the leisure for which we might wish.

A Middlebury professor once noted that we spend an inordinate amount of money to pay for college, and that if the purpose is to secure a higher income thirty years down the line, it is too much. But if we are not just being filled up with facts and prestige,

and rather our souls are being turned away from the shadows and towards knowledge of the good, then the high cost might just be a bargain. Liberal education should teach students not just how to act but to act with "firmness in the right." It should give students knowledge regarding how they should act once they leave the ivory tower.

My present understanding of the liberal arts indicates that we should search for knowledge by confronting unanswerable questions, including that most important one: how do I live well? As human beings, we are uniquely qualified to take part in this quest. Allan Bloom once wrote, "Man is the particular being that can know the universal, the temporal being that is aware of eternity, the part that can survey the whole, the effect that seeks the cause." "Seeking our cause" – well, if this doesn't sound like leisure of the most important variety, I don't know what does.

However, I am unconvinced that this sort of activity happens regularly at Middlebury. I find it unlikely that all classes seek insight into the human condition or broach the question of what it means to act with integrity or justice. The current inadequacy of our honor code confirms that Middlebury does not succeed in teaching virtue.

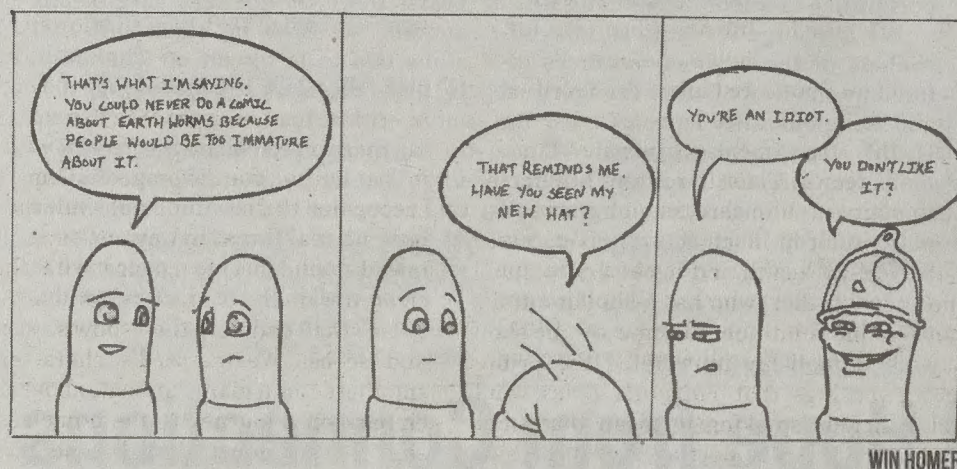
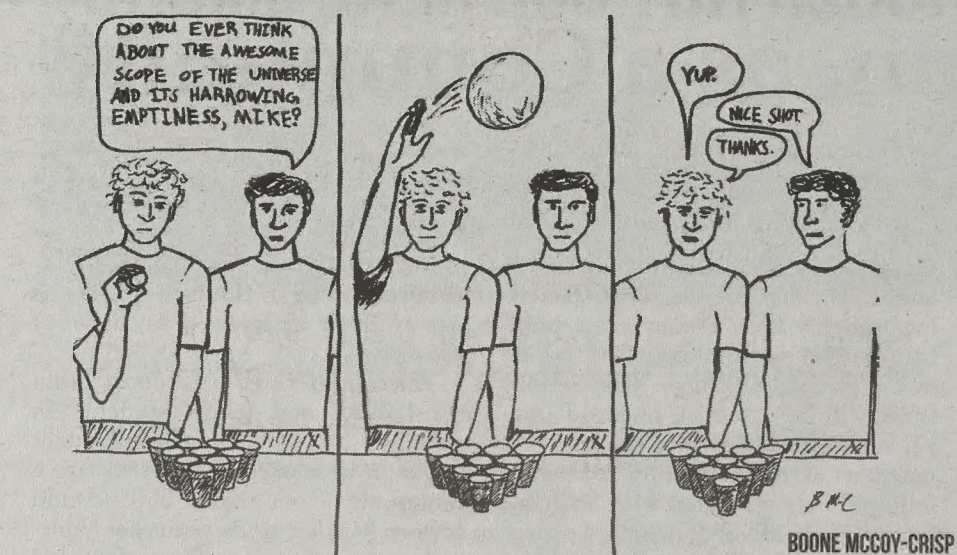
In many classes I have taken at Middlebury, we look at things that seem good or bad, and we look at the systems that create these good or bad situations. However, we don't always ask why something that seems good is good. We deal with the parts, not the whole.

While I admit to seeking the whole rather than the parts in some of my classes, it is not just the content but also the form that forces me to question whether my liberal arts education has been one characterized by leisure. Sure, when I read a beautifully worded sentence or explore a complicated concept, sometimes I feel something within me shift. When this happens, I am reminded of this crazy idea – that I might have a soul, and that learning here at Middlebury might be what nourishes it. But I also know that when I am in the library and I hear the lady on the loudspeaker say that it will close in 15 minutes because it is 12:45pm and I still have to memorize the names of Roman consuls and power through 200 more pages of so-called beautiful and soul-affirming literature – well, when that happens I no longer have the time or energy to verify its lofty reputation for myself. Because Middlebury doesn't just ask us to seek, but also to prove that we have sought.

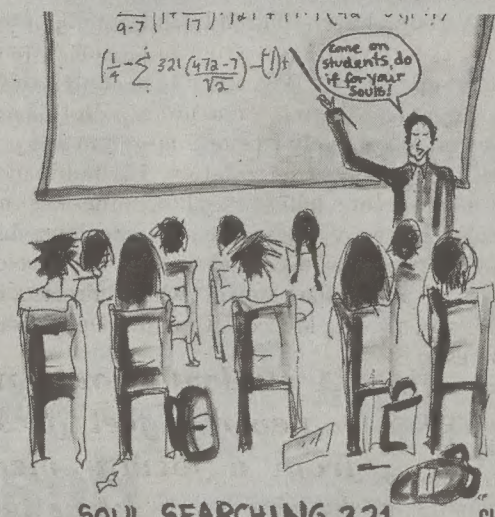
CORRECTION

Due to an editorial error, the *Campus* misprinted or accidentally omitted several op-ed submissions in our most recent issue. These pieces from Jack Turnage '17.5, Emily Bogin '16, and the team of Shubha Ganesan '17 and Sophie Vaughan '17 have been reprinted in their correct format. *The Campus* regrets this error.

Campus Cartoons



College for Cats by Emily Cox



Reimagining Environmentalism

READER OP-ED

Zane Anthony '16.5 is from Annapolis, Md.

Circa-2002 environmentalism begged for more bikers, lower thermostats and less polystyrene. The jets of today's movement make a braver thunder: they hinge on justice. A decade ago, your shopping-mall forays, half-hour showers and globe-trotting airfare was under scrutiny, but now are your ears, which scarcely register the running snow-melt and decline to hear the ongoing environmental organizing lobby.

Climate organizers are a countervailing strain, but they are winning. With the grit of Othello's Iago, they are netting legislators who practice and preach a flawed, globalizing logic. They are demanding that industrialists take responsibility for subjecting their emissions and self-interest to those who are less fortunate — the indefensible Desdemonas of the world who are not tooled for cooperation, response or rebellion. They are calling on those "up in corporate" to descend from their towers, their dry archipelago of city blocks, and have a more equated glance (at sea level) of the wet, waning coasts. The implications, microplastics, and methane plumes of a warmed world bubble beneath.

Extreme climate has burned onto our era's memory,

and in the hotness, we walk a wobbly wire with infirm grip. The third world is dipping, and let me be clear: the first world is next for remotion. "How does that make you feel?" asks the shrink. Inspired or impotent? Really, what does it take to fulfill a transcontinental vision for rational, wholesome, productive urban centers, an industrial growth free of wastes, petroleum addiction, and never-saturating sprawl? The worn adage that sustainable development undermines healthy economies squashed, a new troupe of players — social scientists, landscape architects and lawmakers — is necessary to completely reimagine our human presence. The alternative, if one exists, knocks the death knell.

With the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set to expire this year, engineers of the new system must be wont to the weighty cultural responsibility they carry. In cultivating healthy, sustained growth, regional cultural values, heritage and precedence must reign supreme. Global climate organizing orbits the frontline: the indigent, out front, disproportionately bear the brunt of "shocks" to the system caused by climate chaos. In the aftereffects, their domains are not a tabula rasa for the West. Locals need to drive the global urban planning conversation; they are to define their post-transition modes of life

and labor.

The abrasions of the private sector are smoothed by collective commitment to "goodness." Environmentalists are no longer fey particles in a crowd, but a human ribbon crouched en masse on the boulder-field, marching to make history. A politics of sound bite and short-range gain is under fire; the glare permeates, nowhere a shadow. From our urban-most cores and out toward the jerkwaters, a growing number of people understands that our cities and settlements foster a reflex of wanting and grasping by which to live. This reflex is the purest form of suffocation. It is our poison pill.

True human resilience does not stem from artist's metaphor or sticking veneers over the same flailing, dam-dig-drill industrial model. In its realization, our kind's ecology and psychology must legitimize a capacity to endure, adapt and maintain a dynamic stability in the face of uncertain, unruly environments. We need to prepare for new values, habits and expectations — uplift, not show contempt for, our generation's organizers, the livewires of the millennial environmentalism who are ensuring a just transition. Significant estrangement and repentance to "enmesh" us by midcentury, what we will gain is so much more than what we will give up — "out of her own goodness."

DEMOCRATIZE THE DROUGHT

SWING VOTE

Erin Van Gessel '17.5 is from San Rafael, Calif.

Governor Jerry Brown of California issued the first major water restrictions in the state last week. It has been a long time coming. For a few years now, California has been feeling the effects of its drought. I, like many other Middkids, come

from the Golden State and have been trying to cut my shower time, capture my gray water and scold my water-wasting friends for a while now.

It isn't enough, though. Even after Gov. Brown demanded a 20 percent water reduction in January of last year, the state's water supply is still not looking good. Some experts are saying that 2015 could be the worst year yet — a reasonable premonition judging by the abysmal snowpack (six percent of the normal amount!).

This begs the question — how will Californians react?

The water usage trends for wealthy counties throughout the state do not look good. Down in Southern California, affluent communities such as La Canada Flintridge, Newport Beach and Malibu consume more than 150 gallons of water per capita per day. This is much higher than the water usage in poorer communi-

ties, which tend to use around 40 gallons per capita per day. A University of California-Los Angeles study underlined this finding, stating that on average, well-off neighborhoods consume three times more water than less-affluent ones.

But this is not fair. Not only are poorer communities bearing the burden of the drought by lowering their water usage while the spouts of the wealthy stay on, but those with less financial means will continue to be disproportionately inconvenienced.

If the drought continues and California does not meet Gov. Brown's new 25 percent cutback goal, food prices will likely rise due to increasingly expensive water in the agricultural sector, a price jump that not pay more

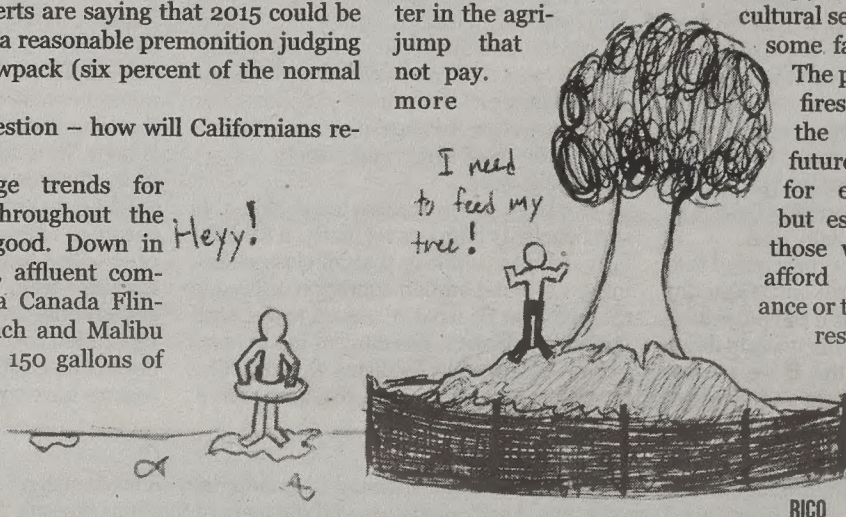
some families can't afford fire insurance or the time and resources that would be required to deal with such a natural disaster.

Therefore, the wealthy need to step up and remove their blinders. Shrubs and front lawns are not supposed to be green in California right now; ornamental fountains need not run under the current circumstances; and lavishly long showers are no longer an option. Those more fortunate must realize that their choice of how to use water has larger implications than just an increase in the water bill they can afford to pay.

This premise is not isolated. Every day, well-off Americans are faced with the choice of how they will behave knowing that they might be in a position of financial comfort, but that such is not the case for everyone. The party system serves as a framework moving forward in this regard.

While citizens can act independently — for example, a Republican might involve him or herself in community service on a regular basis — party membership suggests a certain baseline for how communally people behave. As a general rule of thumb, Democrats are more inclined to institutionally spread their wealth and think for the common good than Republicans.

I know that not everyone is a Democrat, (although sometimes it feels that way in California,) but in the case of the state's drought, everyone needs to adopt that Democratic mentality. Gov. Brown has the hard job of forcing residents to think beyond themselves. While (sadly) he probably wouldn't succeed with this task if it were targeted at public education or some other common good, perhaps the real-life threats of the drought will impel all Californians to finally get on board.



THEATER DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOT USE REAL SMOKE

READER OP-ED

Jack DesBois '15 is from
Topsfield, Mass.

The first half of the Theatre Department's *Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls* this past weekend was a welcome treat – a delightfully original weave of fairytale whimsy and post-Soviet Russian grit. Katie Weatherseed's portrayal of Annie, the show's naive and relatable Russian-American study-abroad protagonist, and Gabrielle Owens' laughably hideous Baba Yaga offered a much longed-for respite from the edge and violation of Snoo Wilson, Caryl Churchill and Howard Barker, favorite playwrights of the Middlebury Theatre Department.

Unfortunately, though, *Fairytale Lives* was not completely free of inappropriate and unnecessary violation. I did not see the second half of the show, opting to preserve my lungs instead.

About halfway through the show, Weatherseed and Lana Meyer, who played Masha, a young Moscow woman with domestic issues (to say the least), played a dialogue in which Masha offers Annie a cigarette. Masha lit up first, then helped the neophyte Annie with hers. By the time Annie was choking on her first lungful, the smoke had wafted to my seat. I have severe chemical sensitivities due to an autoimmune disorder, so when I realized that these were not herbal cigarettes but the real thing, tar and all, I quietly excused myself from my row and left the theater.

Using real, lit cigarettes in College-sponsored shows is wrong on several

levels – not only does it pose a health risk to actors and audience members alike, but it is an ineffective directorial choice given the intense cultural connotations cigarettes hold. Health, though, is my most significant reason for calling for an end to the use of real cigarettes in Middlebury theatrical productions.

From the actor's viewpoint, smoking is a personal choice. We have a significant number of student smokers involved in the Theatre Department, and that is another issue entirely. But a student should never – never – feel pressure from a faculty member to smoke a cigarette in a play. It should simply not be part of the equation, should not enter the director-actor conversation. Professors should not be promoting smoking, even as part of character-building; actors have been known to develop nicotine addictions from situations just like this. True, the actor does have the ability to say no to her director, but in the Middlebury Theatre Department, as in the greater world of

theatre, saying no to your director can often feel like risky business. It is easy to imagine an actor going along with a director's decision to light real cigarettes despite the actor's inner misgivings. Because of

this, I would view such a request from a director as a breach of trust.

I should note here that I do not know the specific circumstances surrounding the decision to light real cigarettes in *Fairytale Lives*; it is possible that the actors involved were already smokers and even initiated the decision. However, the issue involves many more people than just the actors and

director.

From the audience's viewpoint, secondhand smoke is not a personal choice. It is an imposition, a violation of the body, which is one reason why smoking is banned inside College buildings and within 25 feet of doors and windows. It is very unhealthy for any audience member who must be subject to the cloud filling the room, and even more so for the fellow actors and stagehands who

must be exposed to the smoke night after night. During rehearsals for my First Year Show, (a Theatre Department-sponsored play produced every fall in which students who are new to the Department participate) I had to ask my director to refrain from including real, lit cigarettes in a scene that I was not in. Such action was necessary for my health and necessary to enable my brother, who has a similar autoimmune condition, to come see the show.

I foolishly interpreted the printed warnings that *Fairytale Lives* would include smoking to mean that smoking was to be portrayed onstage, similar to previous Department warnings about shows' sexual content. If I had known that smoking was actually going to happen onstage, I would not have bought a ticket. I wonder how many others would have done the same, and I wonder how many others reacted negatively to the cigarette smoke. My guess is quite a few, at least regarding the latter.

So why the decision to use real smoke in the first place? Because it looks more realistic than prop cigarettes or herbal smoke? It does, but at too high a cost. Realistic theatre (which

Fairytale Lives isn't) seeks realism in small details in an effort to facilitate the audience's suspension of disbelief, to help the viewer lose himself in the story more completely. Using real, lit cigarettes, though, has the opposite effect. As soon as the smoke reaches the

"Secondhand smoke is not a personal choice. It is an imposition, a violation of the body ... It is very unhealthy for any audience member."

audience's nostrils, the audience is immediately pulled out of the play, as thoughts such as "they actually made those poor actors smoke real cigarettes" or "isn't that break-

ing some kind of law?" or even "wow, that's awesome that they're allowed to do that!" impede engagement with the plot. The scene becomes about the cigarettes instead of the characters smoking them. Prop cigarettes are well within the limits of an average audience's suspension of disbelief, and, since they pose no real threat to anyone, they allow the audience to engage with the cigarettes on the characters' terms.

At the end of the show's second scene, Weatherseed's character, smothered in a giant fur coat, about to embark on a journey to the homeland she'd never known, shot the audience a glance filled with palpable emotion – fear, excitement, duty, confusion, determination – and the stage went dark. I was ready then to applaud the new direction I saw the Theatre Department going in (a trend that began last semester with the uproariously funny *Mendel, Inc.*). No longer, it seemed, did the department only cater to those longing to be insulted, hurt or violated by their theatre. It seemed a new theatre was finding representation on Middlebury's stages, a theatre for seekers of a more respectful, real humanity. But then the smoke came.

"Let Us Never Fear To Negotiate"

Note: I am a sophomore Feb, and I'll be writing a bi-weekly column on happenings in international affairs and U.S. foreign policy. My goal is to further interest and inform Middlebury students about these subjects. I welcome any comments at jturnage@middlebury.edu. This first column looks at the merits of the nuclear agreement with Iran.

U.S. AND THEM

Jack Turnage '17.5 is
from Denver, Colo.

After an American-led coalition of world powers and Iran announced the outline of a nuclear accord last week, it is difficult to be optimistic about its chances to survive the U.S. Congress. While Pope Francis praised the agreement at his Easter Mass, he does not command the influence of Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who succinctly termed the agreement "a very bad deal." And though Republican moderates like Senator Bob Corker are so far reserving judgment, that caution does not extend to the broader Republican caucus. House Speaker John Boehner, who recently opined that "the world is on fire," could push legislation to undo the deal's provisions.

There are several good reasons to suspect the merits of the pact. First, the agreement has the support of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Khamenei has presided for 26 years over a regime that has defined itself through antagonism towards America. Second, as former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has said, talks with Iran began with the goal to deny Iran the capability to build a nuclear weapon, and they now aim to limit the scope of that capability. This observation implies that codifying Iran's capability to build a nuclear weapon could scare Middle East powers into a nuclear arms race. Kissinger's objection ignores, though, that the U.S. missed its chance to negotiate over only the scope of Iran's nuclear capability. In 2003, when Iran was beginning its nuclear

program, President Bush rejected Iran's offer to talk.

Congress refrains from voting on this deal for now because it is America's least-bad option regarding Iran by far. The agreement is almost implausibly stringent and comprehensive. Iran will reduce its active centrifuges from 19,000 to 5,000. Its enrichment plant at Fordo will not produce fissile material for 15 years, and activity at Natanz, its other enrichment facility, will be internationally monitored. Iran will ship almost all its enriched uranium out of the country. Most importantly, the International Atomic Energy Agency "will be able to inspect any facility, declared or otherwise, as long as it is deemed to be 'suspicious.'"

These conditions amount to "the most robust and intrusive inspections and transparency regime ever negotiated for any nuclear program in history." Any possible cheating to build a nuclear weapon would receive "almost instantaneous recognition." In return, the U.S. and the U.N. would gradually reduce sanctions and recognize Iran's right to enrich uranium (minimally).

An alternative policy would be to reject the deal and redouble sanctions, with the aim of so weakening Iran that it unilaterally renounces every component of its nuclear program. This would not happen. It would be a national humiliation that Iran could not countenance. Increasing sanctions would heighten Iran's economic isolation and strengthen hardline Islamists. Correspondingly, Iran would be more likely to choose to "race" to produce a nuclear weapon, which it can currently do in only two to three months, as compared to over a year with this deal's framework.

A third choice is some measure of military action. This would be foolish and costly. Shia-majority Iran has proved effective at combating (Sunni-dominated) ISIS, which the U.S. is fighting. Striking Iran would eliminate a potent, if tacit, U.S. partner in that fight. It would also give the impression that America does not differentiate between different manifestations of

Islamic faith and ruin what popular support America retains in Muslim nations. That is not an irrelevant consideration given we are often compelled to partner with those countries.

Military options would also lead to a familiarly endless calculus. What would be America's aim – to destroy Iran's nuclear infrastructure? It is perhaps impossible to eradicate. Should the U.S. kill scientists and personnel? The Iranian military wouldn't just stand by. Perhaps we should degrade Iranian military capabilities. This would mean war, with lots of troops involved. If that effort were successful, Iran's political regime would fall. Would the next government have any popular legitimacy whatsoever? Would America need to station troops in Iran to subdue a hostile population? Would those interventions safeguard America's security interests?

Properly implemented, this agreement demonstrates America's ability to make the world more prosperous, peaceful and secure. It is not just a product of the Obama administration, but is supported by Russia, China, India and Europe as well. It gives the West better chances and more time to detect possible nuclear weapons development, and to prevent nervous allies from starting an arms race, than if we rejected it. As with the Soviet Union, linking Iran to global economic and ideological markets could advance political liberalization, free enterprise, individual rights and even the fall of the regime. Iran's people, especially its youth, are ready for that opening – in 2009, millions of Iranians took to the streets to protest a rigged election.

America should stop while it is ahead. As Sparta told Athens in the Peloponnesian War, "[T]he prudent are those who secure their gains looking toward the element of uncertainty." Athens didn't listen. Congress should give Obama time: for the deal to prove its merits, and for the Iranian regime to atrophy. That probably won't happen.

Spiritual Health On A College Campus

THE UNPOPULAR OPINION

Andrew DeFalco '15.5 is from Boston, Mass.

Like many Catholics, I spent last Sunday nodding off in Mass or trying to get the toddler in the pew in front of me to laugh. Like still more Catholics, I promptly forgot the sermon and jostled with my fellow parishioners to exit the Church when the one hour time limit was reached. I went to Church with my family, simply because it was the thing to do. Tradition demanded it and, being a sucker for the old-fashioned way, I hastily obeyed. Now that I am back at Middlebury, I will likely continue my habit of rarely attending Mass. I did not stop going simply due to some strange atheistic peer pressure; it just stopped making sense to me. So I stopped, and happily let my identity be molded by our academic, merit-driven community.

Religion is a tricky thing, and all too often it is intensely personal in its definition and application. While I no longer attend Church and do not feel particularly bad about it, there are elements of that community which a place like Middlebury cannot make up for. Religion may not be a prerequisite for a contemplative life, but I am sure most address it in their doctrine.

Now before you dismiss me as a

little out of a touch, let me explain. At almost any place of higher education we can rely on a few staples. First and foremost is academic rigor. Here we pride ourselves on how hard we work and the quality of said work. Seriously, how many times per Proctor visit do you hear the phrase, "I have so much work." Similarly – and perhaps this is more Middlebury specific – we take great care to eat healthy and exercise, satisfying our physical well-being. Lastly, many of us strive to be satisfied in our pursuits and satisfy our emotional selves. Bear with me here as I go out on a limb, but there is something in the contemplative and spiritual that is left unresolved in college.

I can guess what you're thinking: something about new age or religious nonsense. Just humor me for a minute. (We all know you're just killing time reading the paper while you wait for your friends in Proctor). If we were to define a contemplative life as self-reflective and concerned for the well-being of others, how many of you

would fill that requirement? I would utterly fail. Who has time for that?

We pride ourselves on the strength of our community, yet that very definition of community is unachievable without a common sense of selflessness. In an environment of high stress mid-terms, job interviews, GPA worries and near constant anxiety, is it any wonder we spend so little time wondering how to improve ourselves? Is it any wonder we have so little patience for the problems of others or so little focus on the positive experience of those around us? Religion by no means mandates or succeeds in producing utterly selfless, community-centric people. After all, each one of us knows our share of bigots. Yet, at least it is an avenue for the discussion. In our on-the-run, work-until-you-drop, please-don't-drop-my-GPA world, we have little time or energy to work on being better people.

This is a wonderful ideal. Wouldn't it be nice if everyone were nice, right? Personally, I have very little energy or patience for my neighbors; I find it weighs me down to take on other

people's worries. Extending that to a stranger would seem an almost impossible task, and certainly one with no guarantee of personal reward. Which is, after all, what we want right? However, none of us can possibly come up with an excuse for not putting any effort into being less selfish people. Even if that means something as small as waking up in the morning and trying to be a better partner, sibling, cousin or neighbor.

I had an interesting conversation with a mentor of mine who repeatedly asked me the question, what do you want? I managed to conjure up some professional sounding words concerning a future career. In an hours time, I ended up where we all end up. I want to be around friends and family who I take care of and who take care of me. It is not exactly a complicated goal, certainly not an original one. To achieve it we need to step outside ourselves for just a little bit and pay attention to the people around us. So I leave you with this final thought: decades from now when people talk about you, what would you have them say? My hope is that it wouldn't be, "they were a pretty good student and made some good money." Rather, with any luck, it'll be something like, "they cared more for their friends than they did themselves."

The Borders of Our Lives

READER OP-ED

Shubha Ganesan '17 is from Tucson, Ariz.

Sophie Vaughan '17 is from Oakland, Calif.

From our vantage point in rural Vermont, the border may seem so far away as to be irrelevant, but in fact, our everyday actions and inactions, consciousness and lack of consciousness, impact the immigration system and the people who live within its grasp. For this reason, Malt El Paso, working together with Juntos: Farmworker Student Solidarity Network, constructed a symbolic border fence and *casa de cartón* (cardboard house) in the lobby of Davis Library last week. The border, whether we acknowledge it or not, is a constant presence in our lives and one which, due to the injustice and exploitation embedded in the immigration system, we should no longer ignore.

Though almost the entire agricultural sector in the U.S. relies on immigrant labor, we often dehumanize the people upon whom our food and sustenance depend, and subject them to inhumane working conditions. In Vermont, approximately 1200-1500 migrant workers sustain dairy farms large and small but have no access to work visas and are therefore considered undocumented – a.k.a. "illegal" – immigrants. Thus, when migrants experience labor violations they have no way of protecting their rights without exposing themselves to authorities and putting themselves at risk of deportation. University of Southern California sociologist and law school professor Emily Ryo notes that migrant workers view our refusal to grant them legal status as pretty hypocritical considering that we are benefiting from their labor at the same time that we are saying, "We don't want you."

In some ways, those who make it to Vermont are lucky. Many who cross the U.S.-Mexico border are detained shortly thereafter, tried in federal court and deported. Some attempt to immigrate because their local agricultural economies have been decimated as a consequence of policies such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which has allowed U.S.-subsidized big agricultural corporations to flood the Mexican market with their products. Since the recession of 2008, however, the border has seen an increase in refugees coming from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala to escape violence. Fewer immigrants are coming from Mexico for economic reasons, though we could easily call countless Mexican immigrants "economic refugees," if such a classification existed.

Street gangs have supplanted state governments in many Central American countries, four of which have murder rates among the top five worldwide. Innocent citizens are subject to extortion, kidnap-

ping and sexual violence. In the meantime, the U.S. is turning a blind eye to this great humanitarian disaster. Refugees are consistently denied asylum, in large part because the laws governing asylum were created during the Cold War and have not been updated to accommodate for non-Soviet Union refugees who may be fleeing their home countries for different, though equally valid, reasons.

Speaking of the Soviet Union, that country – which last time we checked no longer exists – placed sixth in 2013 in number of U.S. asylum grants by country of nationality, ahead of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Needless to say, our asylum system is devastatingly inadequate. Across the country, detention centers are being built to house refugees and other migrants for the months and sometimes years before their trials and likely deportations. Construction is under way in Dilley, Texas, for a new family detention center managed by the controversial private prison giant Corrections Corporation of America (CCA). CCA will be paid \$108,000 a year per detainee housed.

These are only some of the many issues linked to immigration and the migrant experience. But now that we have named these problems, what can we do to change things?

One first step that the nation as a whole can take is to recognize just how linked politics is to the border: NAFTA was not just orchestrated by corporations, and the latest additions to the U.S.-Mexico border fence were not built on their own. Policymakers are the ones who decide what steps the U.S. does or does not take in its relationship with Mexico and the rest of Central and South America. If you are eligible to vote in the U.S., look carefully at your politicians and their stances on immigration, and be discriminating. Give your support to those whose political records indicate that they possess an understanding of the multiple layers involved in immigration, rather than promoting a one-dimensional, marginalizing discourse. We should hold our representatives to a higher standard.

So much of what we hear from politicians and news sources serve to dehumanize immigrants and their experiences. Try to be critical: understand that the common discourse about immigrants coming to the U.S. to "take our jobs" is a far cry from reality. Similarly, consider our language: that oft-repeated phrase, "illegal immigrant," in an instant turns people who might be economic refugees or fleeing violence – people who cross the border because they do not have any other choice – into criminals. When the only way to "legally" enter the U.S. is to wait, suspended in uncertainty, for ten, twenty or even

fifty years, it is easy to understand why people cross the border without documentation. Be aware of how you think about, and talk about, immigrants – your language might reinforce a system that dehumanizes the approximately 11.5 million undocumented immigrants currently in the U.S.

Near the end of our Malt trip, we heard from Ruben Garcia, one of the founders of the migrant shelter Annunciation House, which served as our home for the trip. He asked us one question: "What does the way we treat immigrants say about us?" This striking question does not only apply to the national discourse, but also to the way that we as individuals approach immigration. It is understandable to want to distance yourself from contentious and controversial issues like these. You might feel that you do not have the authority to speak about them, or that they have not affected you personally, or that you do not have a stake in them. But, with a question as big as that of the rights of immigrants in the U.S., we are all already involved, whether we want to be or not.

We built a fence in the library to spread awareness about issues that people often do not realize are so linked to our daily lives. After learning so much, we wanted to take action in whatever way we could. There are so many ways on campus that you can choose to get involved. If you speak Spanish, try coming to Juntos meetings and volunteering with their *Compañeros* program, or volunteering as a translator at the Open Door Clinic. Speak out for a more just food system in Vermont by getting involved with the Milk with Dignity campaign, a farmworker-driven effort to improve the quality of life for migrant workers on local dairy farms, by signing their petition (accessible at go/milk or go/dignity) and encouraging our administration to support this initiative. Give yourself a challenge: resolve to make more sustainable food decisions, or to not buy any clothing made in sweatshops. If you come across an article or a news story about immigration issues, promise to read the whole thing and think critically about it, rather than turning to another page. Additionally, if you want to learn more about these issues, take a look at some of the articles we have posted online at go/juntos.

We all have the power to take action. Choosing to be aware, and to be conscious, is maybe one of the most important first steps we can take towards making a change. But greater consciousness is still a means to an end, and simply becoming more aware will not necessarily lead to the change we need. If we use our knowledge and awareness to work together and take action, we can be part of the transformation towards a more just society.

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PROBLEMATIC SPACE



PROCTOR HALL

/ KAREN LIU

When I walk into the main dining area of Proctor, it's overwhelming. I see rows of dining tables that seem to connect different athletic and predominately White social groups together. Trying to join these tables in the main area can be difficult if one is not part of these social circles because the long tables that stretch across the space only reinforce the strong connection between the groups that occupy the space. As a result, I notice that non-athletic students tend to settle in the fringe areas of Proctor. The booth room, the rows of tables by the dish carousel, the lounge, and the upper level dining space are all spaces where people with different backgrounds congregate. The unmuffled background music, varied furniture (couches and armchairs!) and mixed layout of these spaces reflect the eclectic nature of the people who gather there. Small groups of friends or lone individuals who simply want to eat alone settle into intimate pockets of these different spaces so that they do not need to be daunted by a vast dining area that is already occupied by large social groups.

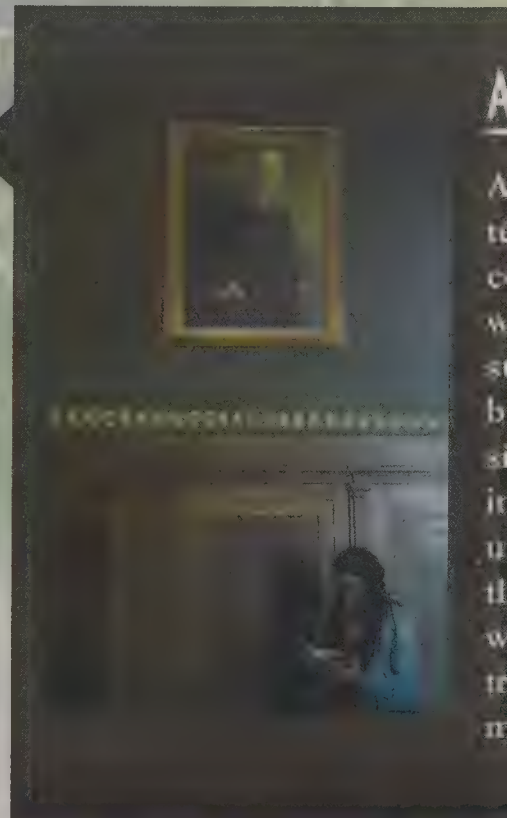


DKE HOUSE

/ ANONYMOUS

The Greek letters on the DKE house could be interpreted as problematic because they are a reminder of a past part of Middlebury culture that the community chose to eliminate. We should not be proud of our history of a social climate that was not inclusive. Instead, we should be fully focused on our current goals of making campus social life a positive space for all involved; Greek life has consistently been proven to detract from these goals more than it contributes to them.

Text and Research by
Emilie Munson & Jessica Cheung
Design by Evan Gallagher
"Proctor Hall" by Karen Liu '15
"Munroe Hall" by Eliza Margolin '15.5
"Axinn Center" by Afi Yellow-Duke '15



SPACES ON CAMPUS

How do spaces on campus influence our behavior? How do they dictate how we feel and what we do within those spaces? This week, the Campus asked four thoughtful students to analyze spaces on campus that they might find problematic. From the campus' inaccessibility to people with physical disabilities to the legacies of Greek life, students shed light on problems with architecture and design on campus that are lived in, but are invisible.

MUNROE HALL

/ ELIZA MARGOLIN

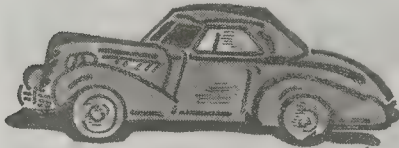
The biggest problem with the campus, in my view, is the lack of physical accessibility. While the new buildings are obviously up to code, older buildings - looking at you, Warner and Munroe - are tremendously difficult to navigate with any kind of disability (even a temporary one - have you noticed how many people wound up on crutches this winter?). And while the hilly campus is picturesque, it's daunting for anyone who has a hard time getting up or down a steep slope.

It's hard to say how to improve on this issue - obviously, a big part of the campus's appeal is its charming old buildings and gorgeous hilltop views. Here is one thought: recent building projects, such as BiHall, the CFA, and the new additions to the athletic center, have all been at the periphery of campus and can be hard to get to. If there were more concentrated development in the existing areas, it would make a positive difference both in the overall feel of the campus and in the lives of disabled students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

AXINN CENTER

/ AFI YELLOW-DUKE

At first glance, the Axinn Center at Starr Library is an opulent testimony to the noble pursuit of studying the humanities. The couches are just cozy enough that I can still concentrate and the wood paneling is gorgeous. But I'm in my last semester and I still feel like I have to hold my breath when I walk in. This isn't because of the squeaking wood floors or the unspoken norm of silence upon entering the building. Rather, it's the sneaking feeling that I'm being watched by the old White men that contributed to this college's history. Part of me wants to feel grateful for their generous donations, but at a school where being a black woman already makes me stick out like a sore thumb, those portraits serve to remind me that this space was never designed for me.

FULL SPEED AHEAD
THE PREMIER CAR COLUMN

By Charlie Ascher

"Fart" in Swedish means speed. Just thought I'd give you all the heads up on that because I'm six and because Broke College Students in Cars Getting McDonalds would like to welcome another Swedish vehicle to its illustrious list of tested cars. So, without further ado, let's go full fart ahead into this latest review. (Ok, I swear I'm done; might as well just get it out of the way now. I restate: I'm six.)

The Car: Black, Manual Transmission, 1st Generation 2001 Saab 9-3 Hatchback

Car Name: Tha Carter VI

The Owner: Jeremy Carter

Styling: Are you an architecture major? Because if your answer is yes then you should totally drive one of these things. This is not because the 9-3 was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright or someone like that, nor because it looks like it features dynamic living spaces (is that an architecture term? Because that should totally be an architecture term.) No, it's just because architects seem to just really dig driving Saabs. The styling itself is honestly a bit of a weird confluence of different shapes thrown together and then rounded because apparently straight lines are just not allowed. It works for the most part — especially if you're an architecture major.

Liebowitz-o-Meter: 3.5/5 Rons

Interior: The oval is a shape. The oval is a shape that Saab designers apparently had a cult-like obsession with when they designed the interior of the 9-3. Every designer who even tried to include a squared-off part was immediately fired. Also, do you want to roll down the windows? The usual answer to this question is to just push the window switch on the door panel. The Saab designers decided that this location was just too logical, so the switches are in the middle of the center console. Why? I have no idea. The seats are great, though, and comforted me as I spiraled into the mental instability brought on by Pink Floyd's "Brain Damage," playing for the majority of the drive. There's not a ton of rear legroom but there's enough space to hold you, a friend, and a medium sized deer. Pro tip: you won't be able to get the keys out of the ignition unless you shut the car off in reverse. Again, I have no idea why this is a thing. Swedes are weird, man.

Liebowitz-o-Meter: 3.5/5 Rons

Handling and Performance: This Swedish rounded wedge of weirdness drives pretty well. It has good, nicely weighted steering and acceleration quicker than your power walk when you try to beat the 12:15 p.m. rush on burger day. A rare beast in this great nation of laziness, this particular 9-3 comes equipped with a manual transmission. (OMG what's that other pedal do?!) The manual is easy and the shifter has nice, medium length throws. The clutch is a little bit vague with longer than usual travel, but it's easy to get used to and it gets the job done.

Liebowitz-o-Meter: 4.5/5 Rons

Drive-through-ability: "A manual transmission does not a great drive-through vehicle make." — Ronald McDonald. If you're looking for minimal effort in the drive through, pay attention to Mr. McDonald's wise words. When there's a long line, you're going to have to work that clutch. On a positive note, you'll get a killer left calf workout. While the switches are strangely placed, the windows are powered, a necessity. A big deal breaker for the 9-3 is its lack of cup holders. Seriously, when are those Europeans going to realize that there needs to be at least 2 cup holders to every passenger?

Liebowitz-o-Meter: 3/5 Rons

Final Verdict: The Saab 9-3 is the perfect vehicle for the budding architect in you. While not the ideal McDonalds chariot thanks to certain design choices, it's fun to drive and pretty practical (see, you're getting solid consumer advice in this column!). As long as you're down to deal with an interior designed by an oval-obsessed madman, you could do a lot worse.

Liebowitz-o-Meter: 3.62/5 Rons

Essential Stats: Carrying capacity of 4 adults or 5 college students. Approximate 24 mpg average. Trunk space for approximately 28 30-racks of Natty Ice.

McDonalds order: Bacon Clubhouse sandwich, medium fry, medium Coke.

Digging Into the Past: Ridgeline Houses

By Sarah Koenigsberg

In Feb. 2015, the Board of Trustees announced the construction of two new residential buildings to be erected in Ridgeline and Adirondack View. Plans for the project, which at the moment still await approval from the administration, include residences targeted specifically toward upperclassmen. The new residences will differ in structure from current on-campus housing options for juniors and seniors, particularly those of the social houses that occupy Ridgeline. While an integral component of residential and social life on campus, many students know little about the history of the Ridgeline mansions.

The four large houses of Ridgeline were completed in 1998, though planning had begun years beforehand. The college struggled to obtain permits from the town allowing them to construct in the previously untouched forest. The initial application included plans for eight new houses and one multi-purpose social barn, and was denied. Though the project was eventually given the go-ahead by the town after some adjustments, controversy ensued when the college began clearing brush for construction without receiving Act 250 approval, which examines community and environmental impacts of construction projects.

In 1990, the College banned single-sex organizations because of their exclusive nature and some issues with misogyny within these organizations. This resulted in the break-up of many pre-existing fraternities and sororities. The ban, coupled with the college's desire to expand its student population by 20 percent, led administrators to turn their eye to the Ridgeline space. With the exception of Brooker House, the homes were built with the intention of housing the fraternities that remained after the single-sex organization ban.

Like the College's goals for new proposed residence construction, the administration in the 1990s also hoped to lure students away from town neighborhoods.

"We thought we'd build nice new houses up in Ridgeline, where they'll draw students to the center of the campus," said Dean of Ross Commons Ann Hanson, who was Dean of Students at the time of the houses' construction. "That way they can continue to offer social life but not bother the neighbors."

In the '90s, students had limited say in the architecture of the homes, designed by alumnus Steve Nelson '79 and his partner Jeremiah Eck, though they could offer opinions on interior matters such as furniture. Nonetheless, the student population greeted the houses warmly upon their opening.

"Students would say it was ironic that they would probably live in the nicest place they would ever live in



COURTESY OF TIM MCCORM

An architectural drawing of the current vision for the future Ridgeline Townhouses.

their whole life while they were undergraduates," said Hanson.

A *Campus* article from the time reports the SGA President touting the benefits of having the social houses clustered together, making party hopping easier and safer for students. In contrast, some townspeople worried about the impact of having a "fraternity row."

Consideration of neighboring Middlebury residents has played a large role in the college's decision to pursue additional on-campus housing. However, other goals have provided motivation as well, namely the housing crunch of recent years and determination to get rid of the mods.

The modular homes were brought to campus in the late '90s during a housing crisis, at which time the college did not have enough rooms for students even if all of the lounges were filled. Only meant

to last ten years, the homes have today become a part of campus culture.

The College hopes the new housing will continue to offer something akin to the experience of living in the mods or off-campus. Current plans are tentative, but include three connected buildings of three townhouse-style apartments, which each house about eight students. A second, large suite-style building would include units holding three to four beds with common rooms and shared bathrooms as well as large building-wide common areas, kitchens, and dining spaces. This building is meant to offer a less isolating suite experience, in contrast to the Atwater or LaForce suites, in which residents seldom run into those who do not share their immediate living space. In this way, the College hopes to create more

diverse living options, to accommodate a wide array of preferences.

"Other than the mods, we're adding to what we already have, we're not taking away," Associate Dean of Students for Residential and Student Life Doug Adams said.

Buildings similar to the townhouses were recently installed at Trinity College and scouted by Facilities Services project managers and other Middlebury College staff and administrators.

"The buildings we saw at Trinity are high quality, well built with nice materials," Tom McGinn, the College's project manager for the new residences, said. "I think they will be a good addition to the student housing mix here at Middlebury."

"I think it's really cool what they're doing. Of course, I won't be here to experience it," Andrew DeFalco '15.5, president of Chromatic house said.

Consideration of neighboring Middlebury residents has played a large role in the college's decision to pursue additional on-campus housing, in addition to the recent housing crunch.

The houses are ideally expected to be finished in time for the Fall 2016 housing draw, although those involved with the project insist this

deadline is very tentative and optimistic.

Many feel that the addition of new upperclassmen housing is likely to alter social dynamics on campus.

"Atwater was the last [residential housing] addition, it really changed the way students interacted with each other," Adams said. "It changed the flow of social life on campus."

Tim Baeder '16.5, vice president of Chromatic house, expressed similar sentiments: "There are going to be 24 new upperclassmen apartments with eight to 10 students living in them, there are probably going to be a lot more parties on this part of campus. This isn't bad, it's just different."

Baeder also wondered how the new housing options would affect the social houses' ability to fill beds, a mandatory stipulation of their continued existence.

"It'll be interesting to see how the administration works to incentivize living in the social houses with all these other options."

As the college works toward finalizing its plans, the administration hopes for as much student input as possible.

"Our hope is to have a lot of conversations with students in terms of what [the new housing] will be about, how we should be using it, and how it should add to the community," Adams said.

Working plans will be posted on the College's website and otherwise made public as the project progresses.



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Just like the new Ridgeline townhouses planned for completion in Fall 2016, the Ridgeline houses were designed and built with the needs of upperclassmen in mind.

Flippant Flips Pockets and Social Norms

By Charmaine Lam

Have you ever wished your clothes could better express the creative and fun person you are? Have you ever looked at your shirt pocket and thought, "What a complete waste of space!"

Then look no further than the Flippant t-shirt company, founded in part by Middlebury students seeking to do something new and different with clothing. The students involved in this company are Logan Miller '15, Mike Peters '15, and Brent Nixon '15.

Flippant produces shirts with upside down (or "flipped") pockets. The pockets are usually a different fabric from the rest of the shirt, drawing attention to its impractical design. "The shirt pocket isn't used anyways, so we thought we might as well have some fun with it," said Miller.

Although Miller founded Flippant on the idea of doing something different with clothing, he realized after discussing with others that "it was really about making a different kind of company, not just clothing, that's totally focused on having fun and being creative."

And this fun attitude is reflected not only in their shirt designs, but also in the way Miller runs his company and advertises their products. Flippant's core values include a good sense of humor and a light-hearted attitude towards work, school, and life. The company has an Instagram account (@flippant_life) that focuses on re-enacting both serious or mundane moments with a funny or unexpected twist. For example, there is a photo of a model in Flippant gear crawling towards a flock of sheep, a parody of the haute couture modeling scene.

"It's like an imitation of the media industry," Miller laughed.

Flippant's mantra of not taking things too seriously is also evident in Flippant's work environment.

"We put on some electric swing when we're sewing," said Milo Stanley '17.5



A collection of Flippant shirts featured on the company's Instagram page. Each upside-down, or "flipped" pocket, is hand-sewn by local seamstresses and Middlebury students.

who hand-sews Flippant pockets onto the shirts. "When you listen to electric swing, you start working like mad."

Although Flippant prides itself on keeping things casual and fun, it has the potential to be a seriously ludicrous endeavor. Miller started Flippant last summer and has worked on it ever since, stabilizing his company with the guidance of the Midd Entrepreneurs class he took last J-Term.

The Flippant team worked with visiting professors Andrew Stickney and David Bradbury from the Vermont Center of Emerging Technologies, who helped them focus and fine-tune the business aspects of Flippant, especially the handling of customer feedback.

"Flippant developed their concept for their customers successfully on their

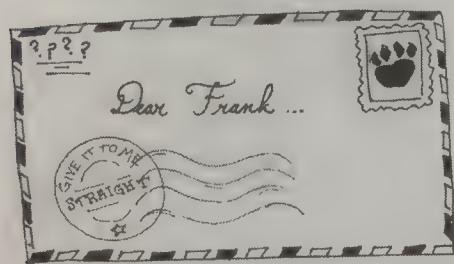
own," said Professor Stickney. "[Midd Entrepreneurs] was about engaging with students to help them test their idea in a real way."

Currently, Flippant's target market is college students attracted to the idea of a "non-chalant and genuine" lifestyle. Shirts are available for sale through their online website (www.flippant.life). Most shirts are made to order and involve working with local seamstresses and skilled Middlebury students.

The company has recently launched a Kickstarter campaign to help fund their company's future growth and production on a larger scale. Upon graduation this May, Miller said he plans to move Flippant headquarters from Middlebury to Detroit, "a blank canvas and space."

Advice on Graduation and Dating

By Dear Frank



Dear Frank, I'm graduating in May and have realized that a lot of the people I'm hanging out with aren't really people I want to be friends with in the long term.

I'm a little disappointed in myself for not finding better friends at college, but mostly I'm wondering how much or little I need to maintain these relationships, many of which have little to no value to me, both for the next two months and after graduation.

Well, you paint a rather bleak picture. We all have acquaintances who might not share our deepest desires or beliefs, and I personally like to keep them around — it's good to never get too comfortable with what you think you know of the world.

On the other hand, I see no value in remaining friends with people who diverge from you ethically or have repeatedly demonstrated a lack of respect for you, your background or your beliefs. I'm certainly not advocating that you stop talking to everyone who falls into this category, but you should take ownership of your life.

The people you spend time with inform your opinions, your behavior, your decisions and how they evolve over time. One of the greatest advantages of a good friendship is the opportunity to learn

from someone else, but you can just as easily be influenced by people who you initially had no intention of imitating.

These are good guidelines for making friends, but your question was about how to go about maintaining or breaking ties over the next few months.

A more mercenary columnist (or someone from the CCI) would point out that more connections might give you more opportunities over the next several years, especially in certain fields.

Even if you have the energy to maintain an acquaintance with people you don't really like on the off chance they might give you a leg up in a few years, I'd recognize the possibility that they might realize your duplicity (or just not be nice people, which is why you're asking this in the first place) and not help you anyway.

I would say that you should focus on maintaining the friendships that you do want to have over the next several years. People at Middlebury are notoriously nicer by themselves than in groups, so consider giving some people a second chance before planning to cut ties.

If you do stop spending time with certain people for your last two months here, take the time to seek out people who have always interested you, especially if you know you'll be living in another city next year.

We have the great privilege of being on a campus with an extremely high density of pretty cool people — try to meet a few more of them before you go. To everyone else reading this who isn't a senior,

don't wait until your last few months at Midd to start hanging out with people you actually like. Life's way too short.

Dear Frank, I don't really feel comfortable participating in the hookup culture, but that seems to be the only way to participate in any sort of relationship. Any advice?

DEAR FRANK
ADVICE COLUMNIST

I'd say that you have the power to change that! The hookup culture is absolutely dominant at Midd, but that's not stopping you from asking someone out. People complain about nobody dating here ... but they seem unwilling to take the plunge by taking someone to dinner or stargazing or to play mini golf.

I do have few thoughts to encourage you. If you ask someone in person, starting with a compliment, he or she, if single, is very unlikely to say no. I'd go with something like: "Hi _____. I think you're smart, funny and kind of cute.

I'd like to go out for dinner (or whatever you want to do) sometime, if you'd be interested."

Make sure you both have a graceful exit and an actual plan for a date — best to plan for all eventualities.

Finally, don't be discouraged if you're refused or if the date goes poorly. Dating is really just about finding someone you can have a good time being yourself with (at least at this point), so it's statistically unlikely you'll be successful right off the bat. As you get more comfortable, it all will seem less intimidating and more fun. Best of luck!

IN-QUEER-Y

By Lee Michael Garcia Jimenez and Rubby Valentin Paulino

All the time we ask queer people what their sexual identity is. We ask their friends, they ask each other, we take guesses. The world is obsessed with finding out who is queer. On the surface level, this doesn't seem like that big of a social issue. Labels serve a convenient purpose of seeing who is a possible romantic candidate, and asking someone's identity is a way to not make assumptions about a person's identity. But if you take a moment to look at when and how people inquire about each other's sexuality, you'll see that it all relates to the social construct of the gaydar, or gay radar, and prejudice.

First, let's look at whose sexuality we inquire about: people who are perceived as being or possibly being queer. We ask boys with loose wrists and high voices who listen to Lady Gaga. We ask women who shave their hair short and wear flannel. To a certain extent this makes sense. The stereotypical gay person exists, because gay pop-culture exists and the gaydar filters those people out. Like Chicano culture and gay African-American culture, gay culture is the result of a group of people being told they are different in a bad way, that they do not belong. And from that sense of not belonging you see a community form, a minority that comes together and forms an identity separate from the majority, often with a sense of pride.

However, the error with the gaydar is that often it goes from using social markers to identify people who may be queer, to saying that queer people are a certain way when not all queer people fit in with that image. For the people who belong in a community but do not fit the image society has for them, this can create a strong sense of dissonance in one's identity. Similarly, as a Latino, I have often been told "that I do not 'act very Hispanic.'" But I am Hispanic. Latinos do not 'act Latino' because they are inherently different from white people, but because there is a history and culture we are exposed to and often embody. Likewise being queer does not inherently make you 'act gay.' The difference is that unlike being black or Latino, being gay is not something we can prove in our skin color or ancestry. Sexual attraction is a personal, psychological experience; personal enough that it allows for people to speculate, bringing us to ask why it is to begin with people want to know if you're gay.

Many say that the reason they ask is because they want to respect and not make assumptions about a person. But what is the harm in making assumptions? The harm comes from the fact that labels are not okay. We don't want to risk assuming someone is gay, because being perceived as gay is bad, and you wouldn't want to offend someone like that ... unless they actually were. Some people say this is just to prevent yourself from accidentally flirting with someone who wouldn't be interested in you. But people don't only ask about a person's sexuality when they're available, like when we already know that they are.

If a gay man assumed his boyfriend is also gay and finds out he's actually bisexual, what is the big deal? Why do queer people like to distinguish? There is stigma against bisexuals within the queer community. But what about when we aren't interested in them at all, when we just want to know? "Darn, I was going to ask you out on a date," is almost never the response someone gets when they answer that they are gay. A more common response is "I could tell." And in my opinion this is the worst way to use your gaydar, because it comes from a place of taking novelty in someone's identity, in testing how good your gaydar is, rather than learning about a person's identity and experience.

While I'm not saying that it is never appropriate to ask someone about their sexual orientation, I think it's important for everyone to start thinking about why they ask what the implications behind that are.

Language Schools Celebrate Centennial with Weekend of Cultural Events and Dance

By Olivia Heffernan

In honor of 100 years of commitment to foreign languages, the Middlebury Language School will celebrate its centennial with a special weekend of cultural events, lectures and panels on July 15 to 17. The wide assortment of activities, speakers and performances are open to all Middlebury students as well as to the Middlebury community.

In 1915, founder of the College's first language school, Lillian Stroebe, was on a train from Burlington to Rutland when she spotted the College's campus situated on a picturesque hill. The isolation and beauty of the College was the ideal place for Stroebe to employ her vision of beginning an immersive German language school. Stroebe presented her idea to the College's administration, and they agreed to devote the summer months of Middlebury's campus to learning foreign languages. The concept quickly expanded with the addition of French and Spanish to the German language school in 1916 and 1917.

Although Stroebe's idea is now 100 years old, her philosophy and commitment to fostering a community of global learners remains pertinent, critical and the guide to Middlebury's current language programs.

Director of the German school, Bettina Matthias, attests to the ingenuity of Stroebe's idea that prevails today.

"The original idea and implementation was visionary and ahead of its time both pedagogically and intellectually," she wrote in an email. "The Language Schools have a sort of magic that has really helped us stay so strong, and I firmly believe that it is and will be one of the foundations of a healthy future."

Today, Middlebury Language Schools have an impressive global reach and influence. After beginning with only one language and 47 students, the program now has expanded to included eleven languages and has had over 50,000 students, with 12,000 students earning degrees.

Studies have shown that students of Middlebury Language Schools develop greater language proficiency after one summer of attendance than after a semester, and sometimes even a year, abroad. Students of the language schools not only acquire fluency, they also develop deep bonds with their peers and instructors that are reinforced by a mutual commitment to a summer of complete immersion.

For over a year, a centennial committee has planned a celebration and conference that will include phenomenal guest speakers, world-renowned cultural performers, delicious dinners and a culminating dance. The conference is divided into five panels themed: Framing the Global Academic Agenda; Language and Identity: Putting Your



MIDDLEBURY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

Students of the Spanish Language School join in song after dinner to practice their skills.

Self on the Line; Working Without Subtitles; The 'Secret Sauce': Selling Global Products in Local Markets; Language Schools 2.0: The Next Century. The Conference is bookended by extraordinary speakers; opening with Management Editor of The Economist, Adrian Wooldridge, and closing with Director of George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs and Middlebury alum and trustee, Frank Sesno.

In addition to providing stimulating panel discussions, the celebration will include cultural performances from language school alums and participants. The final night of the event will culminate in a ball for which attendees are to dress in outfits from the year 1915 that align with the culture of their language.

Following the dance are fireworks. For current students of the language program, the Language Pledge will be suspended when participating in conference events or activities that require the use of English; an exception Michael Geisler, Vice President of the Middlebury Language Schools, asserts he will only make every 100 years.

While the event will acknowledge

and celebrate the accomplishments of the past 100 years, it also highlights the greater objectives of the schools in the future.

Geisler, seeking to put the celebration in a global context, said that the theme of the conference poses a question that goes beyond recognizing the importance of languages and asks why the study of languages is essential.

"A knowledge of the local culture

is necessary in order to understand the way in which global issues are articulated, understood and dealt with in different parts of the world," Geisler said. "This knowledge can only be acquired through

"A knowledge of the local culture is necessary in order to understand the way in which global issues are articulated, understood and dealt with in different parts of the world."

MICHAEL GEISLER
VP OF THE MIDDLEBURY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

knowing the language spoken in that part of the world."

Geisler hopes to increasingly use technology and social media to improve the Middlebury Language Schools. He sees potential in using technology and social media as a means of creating an online learning environment, which will allow students to take a part of the language school with them as they continue to learn and connect virtually with teachers and peers after the program's completion.



MIDDLEBURY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

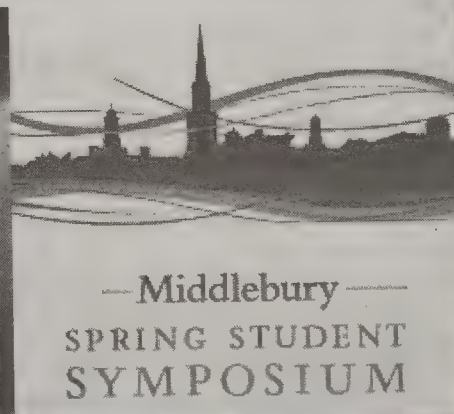
In a historical photo, students of the German school practice a traditional dance as part of their cultural curriculum during their immersive summer at the College.

2015 Spring Symposium Opens Tonight

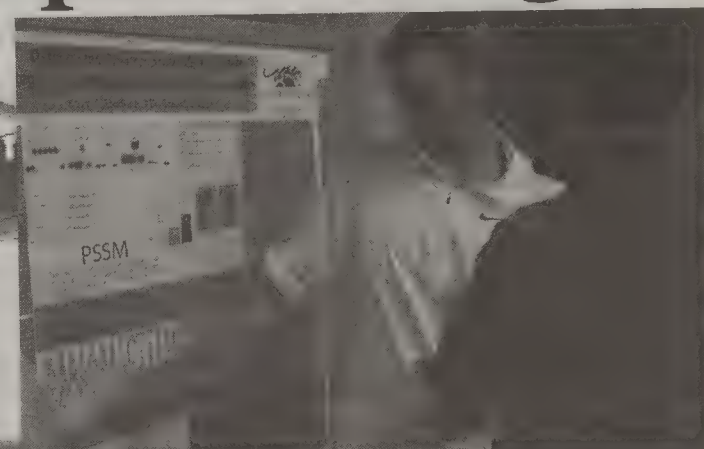


LOST GIRLS

KEVIN MURUNGI
GLOBAL KIDS



— Middlebury —
SPRING STUDENT
SYMPOSIUM

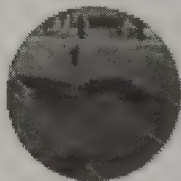


Starting tonight, the 2015 Spring Symposium begins with Keynote Speaker Kevin Murungi '01. Murungi is Director of the non-profit education organization, Global Kids, Inc. He will be speaking at 7 p.m. tonight in the MCA Concert Hall.

Tomorrow, the all-day research symposium will reveal projects with wide-ranging interests. From "Flickering Identities" to "Individuals at the Margins" to "Perils of the Public Person," the symposium will celebrate student work and curiosity.



Instagram



middcampus

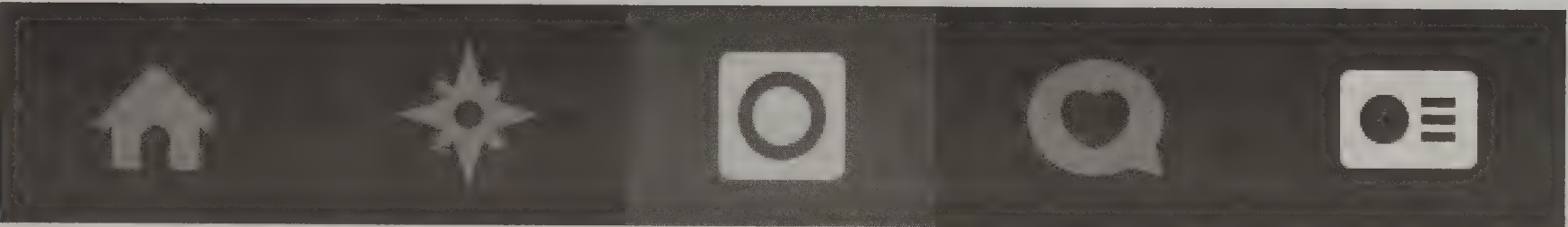
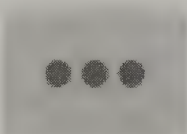
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ARTS & SCIENCES

The Middlebury Campus

Nile Project Merges Art and Education

By Leah Lavigne

On Thursday, April 2, the Nile Project's four-day residency at the College culminated in an engaging, energetic and participatory concert extravaganza that combined education and performance to increase interest in the issues facing the Nile River Basin.

Conceived in 2011 by Egyptian ethnomusicologist Mina Girgis and Ethiopian-American singer Meklit Hadero, the Nile Project blends sounds from the 11 countries in the Nile Basin – Egypt, Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo – to produce music showcasing the diverse range of instruments, languages and traditions in the region while educating an international network of university students about the unique challenges facing the Nile ecosystem.

Rwandan musician Sophie Nzayisenga began the show alone with the inganga, a traditional instrument carved from a single piece of wood featuring six to eight strings. From the moment she began playing, her confident stage presence, brilliant yellow dress and clear, powerful voice captivated the audience, creating a silent, buzzing energy that soon spilled onto the dance floor when the other musicians joined her on stage one by one, each wearing clothing or carrying an instrument representing his or her cultural background. As instruments, voices and cultures collided, the energy of the first song quickly escalated with the deft layering of percussion, vocals and encouragement of audience participation.

I will admit, before the show I had glanced at the cheerful "Come ready to dance!" printed on my ticket with a fair amount of skepticism and exhaustion from the week, thinking defiantly – and stubbornly – that I would not be moved from my seat no matter how exciting the events of the evening proved to be.

Almost immediately after all of the musicians gathered on stage during the first song, students began filling the section cordoned off for dancing, bodies quickly twirling and intertwining in the vibrant glow emanating from the bright colors and sounds on the Wilson Hall stage. As the steady migration from seats to the dance floor increased with each song, it was impossible not to view the growing mass of individuals from all walks of student and community life as an intended, remarkable component of the performance.

I do not know if it was the throbbing bass beat of the drums, the engaging musicianship and interactive performance of the individuals on stage or the carefree joy splashed across the faces of the dancers in the crowd,

but something – especially in the aftermath of the traumatic news communicated in an all campus email only hours before – moved me to grab a friend, join the throng and participate in the exuberant celebration.

This continual engagement with the audience was executed with particular ease by Burundi's leading bassist Steven Sogo, whose instrumental prowess, natural performance energy and invitations to sing and dance with him frequently propelled the buzz in the room to another level.

Sudanese singer Alsarrah and Egyptian vocalist Dina El Widdi's duet, which poked fun at the differences in Arabic pronunciation in Sudan and Egypt, perfectly encapsulated the energy of the night – cultures collided in a song providing both education and entertainment as two extremely talented vocalists crafted their gifts to communicate a larger message.

"We are looking for musicians who are traditionally rooted and play instruments that represent and are relevant to their respective cultures," Nile Project co-founder Mina Girgis said. "We are also looking for the flexibility to listen and learn, and to adapt their instruments and their musical performance to the traditions that they're in dialogue with. Equally important is finding artists that are interested in this conversation that we're sparking – this idea of how music can facilitate a dialogue around water."

The 437 million inhabitants along the basin of the 4,145-mile long Nile River are projected to double in population over the next forty years, increasing an already strained demand for water that is essential to food production, electricity and proper medical care. Today, seven of the 11 Nile countries suffer from undernourishment rates over 30 percent, and less than ten percent of basin residents have access to electricity, sparking a geopolitical conflict over allocation of the precious resource to countries with varying priorities and basic needs.

At its core, the Nile Project aims to empower and mobilize the Nile's citizens to engage in cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration to address political, environmental, economic and social challenges faced by all 11 nations.

"It was primarily because of the water conflicts that we wanted to engage Nile citizens living in these countries in the watershed," co-founder Mina Girgis said. "That's really where the bulk of our work is. We act as a bridge across different countries in the Nile Basin."

Following an inaugural Nile Gathering in Aswan, Egypt, which encouraged participant experimentation to innovate construc-



Nile Project co-founder Meklit Hadero kicks off the second half of the April 2 concert.

tive solutions to the vast array of challenges facing the area, 18 musicians from the Nile Basin translated this multifaceted dialogue into a body of songs representing the range of traditions and instruments in the region. The performance of these songs in their first-ever live concert in January 2013 was recorded and produced as their first album, *Aswan*.

Two more Nile Gatherings have followed, one in Kampala, Uganda in early 2014, and the other in Minya, Egypt in November 2014, and the songs from these collaborative sessions featured prominently in the collective's 2014 Africa tour and in their current United States tour, which started in New York City in January and will end in May at Princeton University.

"This tour was a question of also engaging university students in the United States to contribute to the discussion about the Nile even though they don't live in the Nile Basin," Girgis said. "College students are the future. They are the ones that are going to live to see the fruit of current labors and they are also going to pay the price of the way we're working with our environment right now. In a way they are and should be the most invested in the sustainability of the Nile Basin, whether that is environmental or cultural sustainability among the relationships of these different countries."

Using music to raise awareness for the Nile's sustainability challenges, the collec-

tive offered four days of residency activities in musical collaboration as well as in dialogue and education programs, including workshops, a keynote talk and class visits to offer context for the high-energy concert on Thursday night.

Dartmouth College first notified New England universities and colleges about the opportunity to collaborate to obtain a New England Foundation of the Arts grant to bring the Nile Project to the region, and it is through this grant that the College joined to help produce the month-long New England segment of the tour.

In a short break between songs at the beginning of the second half of the concert, co-founder of the Nile Project Meklit Hadero spoke to her realization that the water forming melting patches of snow on the College's campus could very well have evaporated from the Nile and fallen as precipitation in the mountains of Vermont.

Indeed, the incredible power of the music and message to attract and unite those from a wide range of ages, cultural backgrounds and levels of knowledge about the struggles facing the millions depending on Nile River water for survival, speaks to this undeniable ecological and human interconnectivity between continents and cultures which may at first appear to have little in common.

The Nile Project recently launched a crowdfunding campaign for their second album, *Jinja*, which will be a culmination of the music composed and performed on their United States tour. After their current tour ends in May, the Nile Project looks forward to launching a fellowship program for students from five different universities in the Nile Basin to mobilize student leaders who, through non-profit chapters established on their campuses, will build a transnational network of youths focusing on the cultural, social and environmental challenges facing the Nile.

"This year into the next we will be launching our first Nile Prize in sustainability, and the following year we will hopefully be launching our Nile Tour, which is a traveling semester where both students from the Nile Basin and the U.S. will sail up the Nile and perform along the way and engage with local communities," Girgis said.

Over the two and a half hours of high-energy performance and consummate musicianship showcasing the linguistic and stylistic diversity of the Nile Basin, the 13 musicians in the Nile Project provided an evening of entertainment and education that engaged members of every section of the student and larger campus community, proving the unique power of music to unite, inspire and spark inner reflection that can lead to innovation and creativity.



13 musicians performed in the Nile Project concert. Alsarrah, above, is from Sudan, one of the 11 countries in the Nile Basin.

DON'T MISS THIS

Venus in Fur

As playwright Thomas and actress Vanda work through his new script, they blur the line between play and reality, entering into an increasingly serious game of submission and domination that only one of them can win.

4/9-10, 10:00 P.M., 4/10-11, 7:30 P.M., HEPBURN ZOO

The Lunchbox

A middle-class Mumbai housewife tries to gain the attention of her neglectful husband with a special lunchbox delivered to him at work. When it's mistakenly delivered to another worker, the mishap launches a relationship between the two.

4/11, 3:00 AND 8:00 P.M., DANA AUDITORIUM

The Last Five Years

Thought by many to be one of the best musicals of the last 20 years, Brown's brilliant score captures the joy, the humor and the devastating emotions of a failed relationship. Starring Mike McCann '15 and actress Kim Anderson.

4/9 AND 4/11, 8:00 P.M., 4/12, 2:00 P.M., TOWN HALL THEATER

Magic Meets Russian Reality



COURTESY STAN BARDOH

Olga, played by Kathleen Gudas '16.5, warns her daughter Annie, played by Katie Weatherseed '16.5, to avoid danger in Russia.

By Elizabeth Zhou

What happens when fur coats, dangerously high heels and babushka headscarves clash with the otherworldly elements of ancient fairytales? This past weekend, the Seeler Studio Theatre of the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts was transformed into a fantastical fusion between modern Russian reality and folklore. In the highly-anticipated faculty show *The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls*, which ran from April 2-4, audiences were ushered into a world of evil witches, flying potatoes and hungry bears that magically, horrifyingly coincide with the lives of three girls navigating their way through post-Soviet Moscow.

A finalist for the prestigious Susan Smith Blackburn playwriting prize of 2012, the play was directed by Assistant Professor of Theatre Alex Draper '88 and featured an all-female cast of seven students.

The play begins with a candidly bizarre monologue by 19-year-old Russian Masha, played by Lana Meyer '17. Donning seductive, knee-high red boots with killer heels, Masha offers a tantalizing glimpse into her fantasy-ridden life in Moscow.

"*Zhili byli*," she announces dramatically in her opening line, "in Russian means: they lived, they were. Once upon a time."

This beautifully compact phrase – *zhili byli* – will echo throughout the rest of the play as the characters encounter various mystical obstacles in the most unexpected of places.

"I was, of course, always dreaming about running away into the forest," Masha recounts in the story of how she ended up living with a bear. "Cause that's where everything good – meaning everything bad – happened."

Masha's monologue, delivered in a simultaneously riveting and offhand manner by Meyer, sets the casually outlandish tone that defines much of the play. And so the story – an intersection between peculiar fantasy and starkly honest narrative – is launched.

Set in 2005, *The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls* depicts life in Russia after the breakdown of the strict communist regime. As eager investors flocked to the country in the '90s, the market went insane. The year 2005 saw the cusp of the economic decline that inevitably followed the huge boom, when there still existed a sort of wonder surrounding the idea of quick riches in Russia. Stories circulated in which dirty vegetable sellers became supermodels overnight. People were enamored by the possibility of jumping from a difficult life into what was essentially a fairytale. Such is the premise of all the fantastical happenings of the play.

19-year-old Annie, the protagonist of the play, grew up in America under the care of her Russian immigrant mother, Olga, played by Kathleen Gudas '16.5. Portrayed by Katie Weatherseed '16.5, Annie is shade-eyed, innocent and lovable, voicing aloud all the important, disbelieving questions that allow the audience to keep up with the fast-paced – and at times convoluted – plotline.

Meanwhile, the heavily spray-tanned, tracksuit-clad Olga, whose Russian accent holds strong even after twenty years in the states, expresses disillusion toward her rote and monotonous lifestyle as a hairdresser.

Like so many others, she is enchanted by the prospect of rebuilding one's life in the booming economic hub of Russia, in the magical sense of a modern-day fairytale. And so, because she cannot leave herself, she sends Annie off to her Auntie Yaroslava's house for the summer, with the hopes that her daughter will reap the fairytale rewards that Olga could have had if she had stayed.

In this way, *The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls* challenges – and perhaps outright rejects – the validity of the traditionally revered American dream. No longer is the story centered on finding prosperity within the United States. Instead, it focuses on returning to the motherland in the aftermath of its revolutionary transformation.

Not everything on the other side of the ocean is rainbows and ponies, however.

"Sleep wis one eye open, baby," are Olga's parting words to Annie, as she pins an evil eye on her thick fur coat to ward off dangers that everyone reads about in *skazki*, old Russian fairytales. Her next comment drew huge laughs from the crowd: "It was dark ages when I receive zis. Literally. In Soviet Union, KGB turns on sun only one hour each day. Zey had switch."

With these words haunting her mind, Annie sets off to meet her Auntie Yaroslava, played by Gabrielle Owens '17. Little does Annie know, this kindly old woman is actually the evil witch Baba Yaga in disguise. Wrapped in tattered rags and usually shriveled over in her giant armchair, Baba Yaga is cursed to age one year whenever she is asked a question. As such, she winces painfully nearly every time the curious Annie speaks.

Owens enjoyed the unique challenges that her role presented, as she worked to "find the age of the character without losing any of the physicality or the emotions."

"It's sort of like playing the evil step-mother from Cinderella. It's a very iconic character in Russian folklore who has many different incarnations," she said. "The fun and challenging part was finding switches between when she is the evil witch and when she is masquerading, or is genuinely, a kind old lady. There are some moments when she really does care for this child. She also wants to eat her, of course, but there is a real person underneath."

Outside of Auntie Yaroslava's increasingly creepy apartment, the intersection of fantasy and real world continues, further bending the realm of possibility. Annie befriends three Russian girls with fascinating, albeit slightly concerning, tales of their own: Masha, who complains often of Misha, her (literal) bear of a boyfriend; Katya, the mistress of "the tsar," as performed coyly by Leah Sarbib '15.5; and other Katya, the tsar's beautiful daughter, played by Caitlyn Meagher '17. She also crosses paths with Nastya, the aloof prostitute, also played by Meagher.

Annie's bright-eyed naiveté is shattered to some degree as she hesitantly, and comically, smokes her first cigarette, glimpses into a world of whoring and cheating and, in the culminating scenes of the play, grapples with such dangerous weapons as a pestle, ax and giant brick oven. Through it all, Weatherseed does not lose touch of the syrupy-sweetness that drew the audience to her from the beginning. Annie's optimism may have dimmed,

but Weatherseed shines on nevertheless.

Ultimately, it is the dynamism of the cast that makes this production of *The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls* such a riveting one.

"It needs big, bold, visceral, engaged acting," Draper said.

While some details of the storyline may be lost in the rapid, overwhelming flurry of dialogue, perhaps the play's greatest strength lies in its humor, which stems from the contrast between the sheer outlandishness of the fantasy and the characters' reaction to it. For instance, there is no denying that the presence of a bear in place of a human boyfriend is ridiculous. The script capitalizes on that, with Masha making such nonchalant references to "Misha the bear" – Russia's take on the wolf in Little Red Riding Hood – that Annie initially assumes she is speaking metaphorically.

Brilliantly executed scene transitions brought the audience from one reality to another, traveling from Auntie Yaroslava's living room to pulsing nightclubs to the streets of Moscow. Through masterful lighting by Resident Scenic and Lighting Designer Hallie Zieselmann and the fluid rearrangement of a pair of intricately painted red doors, the stage was transformed time and time again.

According to Draper, the set needed to be "fluid enough to change very quickly and yet contain elements that let the modern, traditional and much older than traditional live in the same kind of space."

In the bloody mess of relationships that culminates by the end of the play, the mantra is uttered, "This shit happens." Yet the characters stand strong in the aftermath; some might even describe them as unfazed.

"Nothing was left behind. Just a brick oven full of ashes and the world's largest vegetarian stew gone cold," Katya proclaims in the final lines. "There was no sign that Anya Rabinovich had ever stepped foot in apartment 57."

The haunting end of *The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls* can be encapsulated by a variety of emotions: disillusion, shock, horror, confusion and even amusement. In the post-show discussion on Friday night, some speculated that the Annie's abrupt departure following the gruesomely violent conclusion could be considered a "Russian happy ending." After all, no longer will she be implicated in the fantastical dangers lurking around Auntie Yaroslava's potato piles. Finally, she can feel safe.

The (debatably) dark ending aside, there lies a beauty in the underlying message of the play: that we have the power to shape our own destiny.

"Women who are living in a very sexist society are taking action and carving out their own *skazki*, making their own stories," Owens said.

"Recognize when you start being the star of your own story," Draper added.

The messages behind *The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls* may sound trite, but its bizarrely outlandish delivery is certainly difficult to forget. People have the tendency to make sense of their lives and justify, excuse and empower themselves with fairytales. This play, in its strange blend of mysticism and realism, is no exception.



BY CULLEN COLEMAN

As this column has emphasized before, global environmental and climate trends will hinge on the emissions of the developing world. Just this month, China's largest oil refiner, China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation (Sinopec), has indicated to the world that China may reach peak oil and gasoline consumption much quicker than previously predicted by western energy companies and consulting groups. For instance, the esteemed Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) has forecasted that China's oil demand will most likely increase through 2040. This is a massively different time frame than the official predictions by Sinopec. China sees peak diesel consumption in 2017 and peak gasoline consumption within the next 10 years.

These Chinese predictions are a sobering revelation to any oil-bull. The common theme among energy companies is that demand trends in India and China will remain positive for decades to come – supporting global oil markets in the process. This Chinese-Indian demand is essential for stability in the oil market given the very real slowdown in oil consumption from developed nations. Exxon-Mobile, the world's fourth largest oil company, predicts that from 2010 to 2040, gas and diesel energy needs in the 32 countries of the OECD are projected to fall about 10 percent. However, Exxon believes that these needs are expected to double throughout the rest of the world.

The signs are already evident that these IEA and Exxon predictions may be overly enthusiastic. In China, diesel de-

CHINESE

GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS

mand declined last year, and growth in crude oil consumption has shrunk. Crude oil use is projected to rise about three percent this year, less than half the rate of the total economy. These declines in growth rates are symptoms of very powerful forces from within China. For instance, the political leadership in China is trying to transition the economy away from debt-fueled real estate investments and heavy 'smoke-stack' industries towards service industries and increased domestic-consumption. This will limit the need for energy-intensive investments and stymie the growth of petroleum use.

Even Sinopec itself, with 30,000 gas stations and 23,000 convenience stores, is prepping for a future in which selling fuels is not its primary business plan. As a microcosm of the Chinese economy, it hopes to rely on the consumption of goods and services at its shops and filling stations. Sinopec Chairman Fu Chengyu is quoted as saying, "In the future, fuels will become a non-core business of Sinopec ... petroleum or oil and gas will continue to be a major energy source in the future, but they won't be the only source; more emphasis will be put on our new energy and alternative energies."

China is the world's largest greenhouse gas emitter. As such, the policy decisions made in Beijing will have a greater effect on global climate change than any other unilateral announcements. According to the World Bank, China accounted for roughly 24 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2014. Within the country, roughly 16 percent of greenhouse gases are emitted from the consumption of petroleum products. It appears that through Sinopec's retail plan, China is signaling that it is committed to meaningful reductions in emissions. However, there can always be more progress and greater efficiency. It will be illuminating to follow China's path to peak gas and diesel over the next few years.

Arts Spotlight: Performing Arts Series

BY CONNOR FORREST

This weekend offers the gamut of classical indulgence, from the sublime brilliance of world-renowned pianist Dubravka Tomsic to the aural majesty of Middlebury's own student orchestra to a comprehensive lecture by Professor Paul Nelson on the entire 95-year history of the Performing Arts Series.

Come to the Mahaney Center for the Arts at 8 p.m. this Saturday to support your peers in the Middlebury College Orchestra. Then, on Sunday at 3 p.m., Tomsic will grace the MCA Concert Hall with the same "heroic power and Olympian vision" (*LA Times*) that has filled the globe's most prodigious locales.

Our 28-person orchestra will be playing a number of pieces, but a potential highlight will be Beethoven's *8th Symphony*. Written in conjunction with his incredible 7th, Beethoven's "little symphony" is more peculiar than its monolithic siblings but equally delightful.

A startling blend of classical simplicity and innate progressive power results in a witty composition handled masterfully by the student musicians in the orchestra. Keep an eye out for Annika Win, a German teaching assistant, who will be playing a clarinet solo described as "amazing" by her fellow musicians.

Following the orchestra's performance on Saturday, the College has the privilege of hosting a musical legend, Dubravka Tomsic, Sunday afternoon. The celebrated Slovenian pianist enjoys "something of a cult status among pianophiles" (Gramophone). The only protégée of fabled pianist Artur Schnabel, who considered her "a perfect and marvelous pianist," Tomsic gave her first public recital at age five and later embarked on an international career that took her to all five continents, performing more than 4,000 concerts to date.

Despite her mythical stature in music circles, it was only in 1989, after a

hiatus of almost 30 years, that Tomsic was reintroduced to American audiences with a triumphant gala performance at the Newport Music Festival. In the blink of an eye, Tomsic went from stunning the international circuit to absolute radio silence. Three decades later, she reemerged, and just as quickly resumed her dominance at the keys. Such is the nature of Tomsic performances. This particular concert program will include Haydn's *Sonata in E-flat Major*, Beethoven's "Waldstein" sonata, and four Chopin piano works.

When she isn't serving as a juror for several major international piano competitions, Tomsic is working on CDs and teaching at the Ljubljana University Academy of Music as Full Professor.

Tomsic performs around the globe with the world's most famous orchestras, including the Vienna Symphony, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London, the Czech Philharmonic, the Munich Philharmonic, the Berlin Symphony, the Mozarteum Orchestra in Salzburg, the Moscow

State Orchestra, the major orchestras of Australia and the symphonies of Boston, Atlanta, Detroit and San Francisco.

Prior to the concert, Performing Arts Series Director Paul Nelson will give a talk on the 95-year history of the series at 2 p.m. in the MCA. This is Nelson's 30th and final season as series director, and this lecture is part of a suite of events celebrating his leadership. He will review notable moments of the series, discussing artists who have had a significant impact on Middlebury and the world.

In many instances, Nelson's insight for talent has brought performers such as Yo-Yo Ma to campus before they became household names. Taken within the context of the weekend, sandwiched between an incredible student performance the night before and Tomsic that afternoon, his talk will provide a sense of continuity across time that links all the aspects of art culture at the College.

Come enjoy phenomenal performances from Middlebury's best, as well as famed pianist Tomsic. Indulge in a weekend of timeless composition and mythical performance. The piano recital is the only ticketed event and will take place on Sunday, April 12, 2015, at 3 p.m., in the MCA Concert Hall. The pre-concert lecture will begin at 2 p.m. Tick-

ets for the concert are \$6 for students, \$15 for faculty, staff, alumni and other ID card holders, \$20 for general public. Check with your commons office for free tickets. Visit go/boxoffice or stop by the offices in McCullough or the MCA.

A startling blend of classical simplicity and innate progressive power results in a witty composition handled masterfully by the student musicians in the orchestra.



SCOTT CAMPBELL

Celebrated Slovenian pianist Dubravka Tomsic will perform at 3 p.m. on April 12.

SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT: WOMEN IN STEM

BY TOBY AICHER

Young river birches line McCardell Bicentennial Hall's Walk of Science, which leads up to one of the building's second floor entrances. Of the ten famous scientists whose names are engraved into the path's black tiles, conspicuously, only one — Marie Curie — is female.

The Walk of Science is a stark reminder that not too long ago, women were almost completely excluded from the scientific community. Women faced deeply embedded misogyny, cultural discouragement and stifling gender norms.

Noble Laureate Elizabeth Blackburn tells the all-too-familiar story that when she mentioned her intent to pursue a degree in science to a family friend, the response was, "What's a nice girl like you doing studying science?"

We often like to think the scientific community has moved beyond anachronistic and prejudicial attitudes toward women, and that our culture celebrates ambitious women pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). But a large body of evidence points to a darker reality. Progress has been made, but it would be preemptive to congratulate ourselves.

Women remain underrepresented in STEM, and make up only 24 percent of the STEM workforce. In one study, hir-

ing managers were given two copies of the same resume, one with a female name and another with a male name: the hiring managers were less likely to pick the female resume.

Researchers also talk about the persistent "leaky pipeline problem." Although in many STEM fields a slim majority of undergraduates are women, each progressive stage of training is more male and ultimately only a minority of tenured professors are women. For example, in biology, 52 percent of biology Ph.D.s are women, but only 18 percent are tenured professors.

Scholars list a variety of reasons why women are underrepresented in STEM fields, including discrimination, socialization and gender norms, the demands of child rearing, institutional bias and cultural discouragement as the major proffered factors. A full treatment of the topic is beyond the scope of this article, but recently a new group at the College was formed to discuss these issues and many others that are relevant to women interested in pursuing STEM careers.

The new student club, Women in STEM, was approved by the Constitution Committee last J-term and had its first meeting three weeks ago. Amanda Fishbin '16 and Perri Silverhart '16.5, two of

the club's founders, were encouraged to start the club by Professor of Geology Pat Manley.

"The idea of Women in STEM grew out of a few conversations with Pat Manley, who is our advisor and the only female faculty in the department," Silverhart said. "She's been in the field since women were first getting into the sciences, and she had a lot of interesting insights about being a woman in a STEM field that we had never thought about much before. She brought up so many different potential topics of conversation that we could use."

A major focus of Women in STEM will be to foster relationships between female faculty and students, and to stimulate conversations about pursuing STEM careers.

"Female faculty have a variety of stories to share about how they ended up where they are and what their decision making process was along the way," Silverhart said. "Getting a degree in STEM is one thing, but to actually pursue a career is less common than one might think. Students could also pursue networking opportunities through these relationships."

Women in STEM recently helped fund Nobel Laureate Carol Greider's visit

to the College, and the group plans on inviting other prominent female scientists to speak on campus in the future. Silverhart would also like to set up a mentorship program with young girls attending elementary school.

"I've spoken with the principal of the Weybridge Elementary School and I know she's interested in starting a program," Silverhart said. "Ideally we'd set up one-on-one mentorship relationships and do fun, age appropriate introductions to science."

The group will hopefully prompt discussions about the status of women in science. Silverhart mentioned it is important because women can still face challenges entering STEM fields.

"Part of the reason why I think it's so important to have these conversations at Midd because sometimes at Midd we live in a bubble," she said. "Here I feel on a completely equal playing field to my male colleagues in the classroom, and I don't really notice any institutional bias, but when you look at studies in the real world that bias is very much present."

The group plans on holding club elections and inviting faculty members to speak at their next meeting on Tuesday, April 14 at 12:30 p.m. in McCardell Bicentennial Hall 104.

FOR THE RECORD

BY DEVIN MCGRATH-CONWELL

There are some names that, when you hear them spoken, just seem to be made for music. They have a memorable ring that keeps them floating around in your head until you hear it spoken again. The trick for any artist is crafting songs that are equally as memorable as their name. For me, one of the artists who continues to do this album after album is Griffin House. House is a Nashville based singer-songwriter who grew up in Springfield, Ohio and turned down a large scholarship from Ohio State to pursue a musical career. He has gained a faithful audience on his circuit since his first album, *Upland*, was released in 2003.

House is a triple threat of a musician in that he is a gifted singer, songwriter and guitarist, which means each song he releases conveys the deeply personal process inherent in his music's creation, and in turn he gives the listener a look into the mind and interests of the man, not just the musician. His music cannot be defined easily as one specific genre. Indeed, he blends aspects of folk, rock, country and even jazz. The influence of such greats as Bruce Springsteen, Tom Petty and Bob Dylan can be felt in the strains of his music, and on his 2007 album *Flying Upside Down*, he worked with Benmont Tench, the longtime pianist for Tom Petty's Heartbreakers. He picks his idols well, and by drawing on these icons he

presents inventive new material tinged with homages to the past.

In February 2013, after a three-year hiatus from the recording studio, House released his seventh studio album, entitled *Balls*. It can be tempting to many musicians to try and reinvent themselves drastically to gain more widespread appeal, but House seems immune to this. He earned his first major hit off of 2007's *Flying Upside Down* with "The Guy that Says Goodbye to You is Out of His Mind," and instead of changing his music with a now wider audience, he stayed faithful in 2010's follow-up *The Learner*, and only expands upon that well-versed base with *Balls*.

The album opens with "Fenway," a song about realizing a fragmented identity fraught with disappointment amongst a place as iconic and loved as Fenway Park. It's an interesting choice for House to use a New England icon after growing up so far away from it, but it can be taken as an accent to the song's theme of lack of self and place. He sings, "I was faking what I'm taking/ Now I'm breaking in the cheap seats/Waiting for an outfield catch." In his immensely introspective way, he reveals that maybe he hasn't reached the place he wants to be in his

career, but maybe there will be something around the corner if he waits long enough. This introspection is a staple of his music, and the album opens with three tracks of the same fiber, following the opener with "Vacation," a song about his dire need for a break from the rush of a musician's life, and "Go Through It," an anthem for confronting the complex struggle between relationships and personal baggage invading that space.

After looking inward for inspiration, House turns to a wider frame of reference

with "Guns, Bombs, and Fortunes of Gold." He is no stranger to the protest song, and this entry is a plea to the

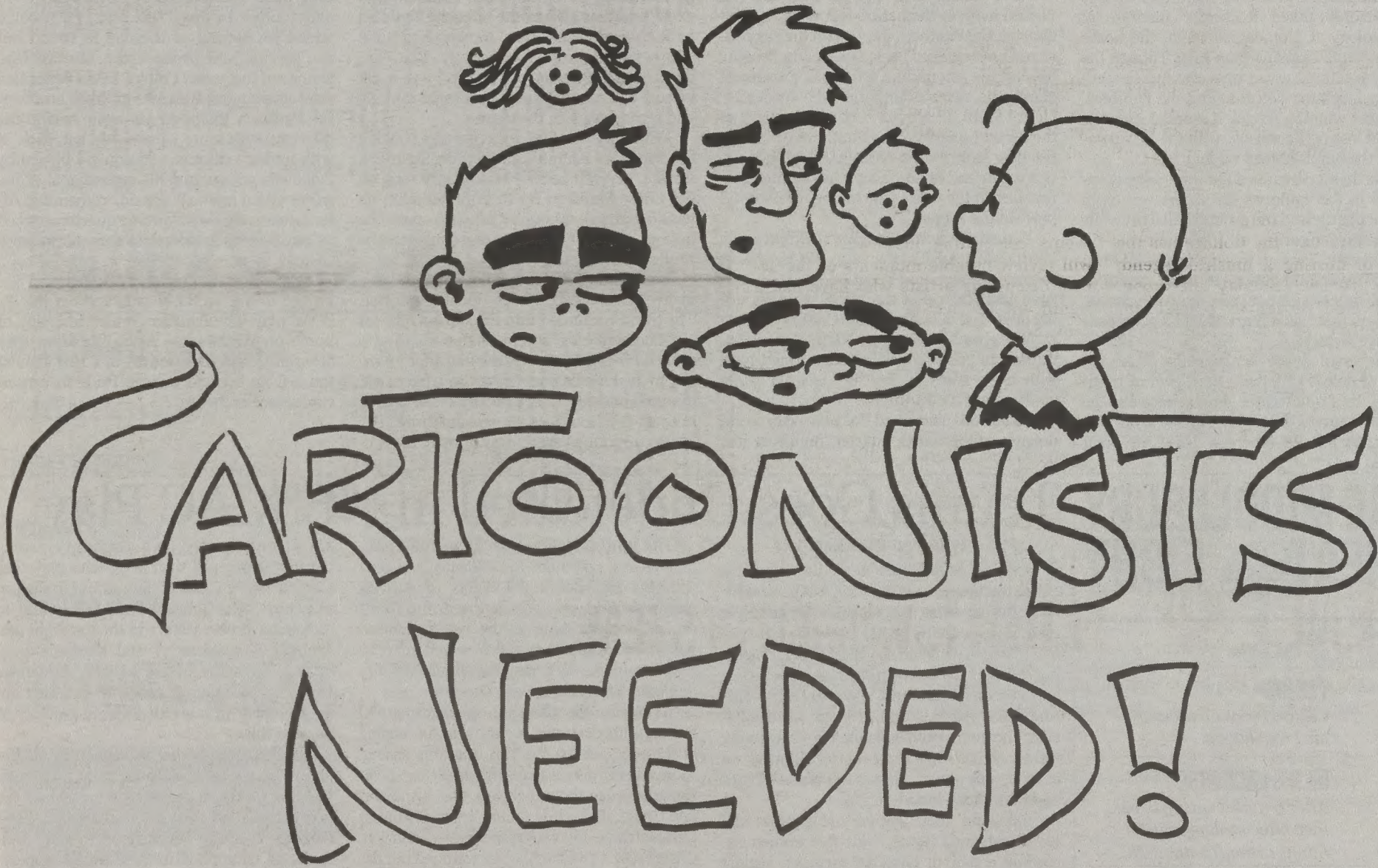
BALLS
GRIFFIN HOUSE

world to "Lay down your fortunes of gold/ Forget the lines that we have drawn/They won't do any good for anyone," seeming to beg those facing off on the world's stage to realize the err of their ways and try to fix the wounds that have seeped into every crack of the human experience. The song has its lyrical shortcomings with a few lines that feel clichéd, but the sentiment is true and we would do well to listen to what he has to say.

On the idea of sentiment, House has written and delivered more than his fair share of poignant love songs, and "Real Love Can't Pretend" is a nice addition to his reper-

toire. It sculpts a moving portrayal of a man grappling with how to reveal the depth of his emotion to the woman beside him. This song is balanced nicely with "Colleen" two tracks later, which is a much cheekier and outwardly sexual song than the former, and House allows himself to have a little more fun with the idea of courtship after baring a bit of his soul in "Real Love Can't Pretend." He sings "I got a heart made of gold/And I would never be mean/But you make it real hard for me/To keep this dirty mind of mine clean," and gives as much time to this equally genuine side of relationships as the purely romantic one before. It is an enjoyable change of pace.

Of the last few songs of the album, the highlight can be found in "Haunted House." It is an atmospheric and creepy tune as much about an actual haunted house as the use of this uncomfortable place as a metaphor for relationships. Amongst a driving bass House floats above with lines such as "I get lost and no one knows/They're keeping me over till I'm/Falling closer to the moon." It is a marked change from the rest of the album, in which House embraces his darker side and the love he has implored before. The album is a strong effort from a gifted artist, and, if not the highest point of his discography, worth more than just a passing listen.



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CAN YOU SOLVE ALL THE PUZZLES?

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0-12 Start Weighs On Midd Baseball

By Andrew Rigas

The Middlebury baseball team's struggles continued again this weekend as Amherst swept the Panthers in a three game series on Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4 by scores of 22-2, 18-2 and 20-10. The three losses in Auburn, Mass. brought Middlebury's record to 0-12 on the season and 0-6 in the NESCAC at this early juncture in the season.

Over spring break, the Panthers began their season in Tucson, Ariz., but lost all nine games and verified their lack of experience — only 16 of the 27 players on the roster return from last year — by losing three straight games in walk-off fashion in what Coach Bob Smith describes as "the lack of ability where someone steps up and stops the bleeding."

After this poor start to the season, it wasn't going to get any easier for Middlebury against Amherst on Friday, especially with 2013 All-NESCAC second teamer Dylan Sinnickson '15 out with a strained hamstring. Without Sinnickson, who has done it all for the Panthers by batting for a .484 average, slugging .1000 and even stealing two bases,

it was clear the Panthers would have trouble keeping pace with the Lord Jeffs from the get-go.

After Middlebury went three up, three down in the top half of the first inning, senior captain Eric Truss '15 took the hill, and hit the first batter he faced, epitomizing the team's pitching woes that would hamper them all weekend. Amherst strung together three consecutive singles following the hit by pitch to take a 2-0 after the first frame.

It didn't get any better for the Panthers after that, and after three innings the Lord Jeffs were leading 10-0. In the top of the fourth, first baseman Jason Lock '17 led off with a single and second baseman Raj Palekar '18 knocked him in with a single of his own to get the Panthers on the board. Shortstop Johnny Read '17 singled in another run, but Middlebury stranded runners on second and third, missing a big opportunity to cut into the lead.

The game continued to get out of hand for the Panthers as Amherst scored in every inning to win the game 22-2. Middlebury

committed eight errors and left 11 runners on base in the contest, although they did notch ten hits, led by centerfielder Ryan Rizzo '17 with three, and were able to put the ball in play with only seven strikeouts.

The Panthers played two more against the Lord Jeffs on Saturday, with Cooper Byrne '15 starting on the mound in the first game of the day. The team loaded the bases in the first, only to strand all three runners, and Amherst jumped out to a 5-0 lead in its first chance at the plate. Much like last game, the Panthers committed four costly errors in the field and left 10 runners on base, too many to be successful. After two innings, Amherst led 12-2, and after nine, the Lord Jeffs came away with an 18-2 victory.

In the second game of the doubleheader, the Panthers began to show some fight against the Lord Jeffs. After falling behind 4-0, Joe MacDonald '16 led off the top of the fifth with a double, and ended up scoring on a wild pitch. Rizzo singled in another run to bring Middlebury within two after four and a half innings. Amherst tallied five runs in the

bottom half of the inning, but the Panthers responded with four of their own. The Amherst bats eventually proved too much to handle for the Panther pitching staff, sealing a 20-10 win.

BY THE NUMB3RS

3

Consecutive wins for women's lacrosse against top-15 opponents.

Feet that Ian Riley '16 threw the javelin this weekend, tops in the NESCAC this season.

193

0

Matches dropped by women's tennis en route to two team wins this weekend.

Combined points for men's lacrosse players Jon Broome '16 and Henry Riehl '18 in two games this weekend.

15

13.72

Combined ERA for baseball so far this season, 374th among 375 teams in Division III.

Men's Lacrosse Picks Up Three Conference Wins

By Trevor Schmitt

Over spring break the Middlebury men's lacrosse team traveled to Baltimore to play the second-ranked Rochester Institute of Technology at Homewood Field, the home of the Johns Hopkins Blue Jays. Though the trip was ultimately an unsuccessful one, resulting in a 21-11 defeat to end the Panthers' six game winning streak, it marked only the second loss of the season, with the first coming at the hands of first-ranked Tufts.

The then 13th ranked Panthers were dominated in the game, as the Tigers won both the shot battle and the ground ball fight while successfully clearing at a phenomenal 80 percent rate. Though this marks the first win for RIT over Middlebury in three games in the all-time series between the two schools, it was no fluke, as it marked RIT's 32nd consecutive victory.

The team, however, seemed to use the sting of defeat to forge a new level of motivation. In a quick three day turnaround the Panthers traveled to play Amherst on Saturday, March 28 where a NESCAC bout,

against yet another nationally ranked top 10 team, proved to be the perfect scenario for a bounce back statement.

After sitting at a 4-4 tie with the 5th ranked team in the nation following the first quarter, the Panthers stepped on the gas pedal and never looked back. Led by Jon Broome '16 and his astounding four goal, four assist effort, the team maintained the lead after Henry Riehl '18 scored at the 13:34 mark of the second quarter. The Panthers would ultimately stomp their NESCAC rival by a 17-11 margin and in so doing hand Amherst its first loss of the year while taking over second place in the league.

Returning home to play Hamilton on Wednesday, April 1, the team did not resort to complacency and retained their coveted spot near the top of the NESCAC. After going down 6-2 at halftime, the Continentals, in rather typical hard-nosed NESCAC fashion, refused to go away easily and stormed back with three goals in the third quarter while shutting out the Panthers.

Hamilton continued to play very solid defense in the fourth quarter, requiring just

as much grit and hustle, two aspects embodied by face-off specialist John Jackson '18 who won 11 face-offs while scooping up five ground balls on the day. The Panthers also exhibited their skill in the offensive end, led by Riehl and Jack Cleary '16, who had three and two goal games respectively. The Panthers ultimately came out on top by 11-8, retaining their number seven national ranking and second place in the league.

With a horde of fanatical parents packing the stands of Alumni Stadium on Saturday, April 4, seventh-seeded Middlebury took on the Colby Mules to try to improve upon its winning streak. Though Colby sits near the bottom of the NESCAC, no one considers the Mules a pushover.

Both teams got out to a hot start, pouring in five goals apiece in the opening quarter. The trend continued into the second quarter as Middlebury, led by Tim Giarrusso '16 who earned his third point on the day after an assist to Joel Blockowicz '15 at the 11:16 mark, dumped in three more to Colby's lone goal to take an 8-7 lead heading into halftime. The Mules responded right away to open the sec-

ond half with three straight goals, building its largest lead at 10-8 with 10:34 remaining.

The Panthers responded with three of their own: one notched by David Murray '15 and another by Joey Zerkowicz '17. Broome added his second of the day to round out the scoring and produce the seventh lead change of the game. Colby's Kevin Seiler tied the contest up at 11-11 late in third, however, the Panthers took over yet again to end the quarter as Broome earned his hat trick at with under a minute remaining followed by Zerkowicz who netted his second goal of the game with a mere 18 seconds remaining. After a relatively slowly fourth quarter marked by a goal for each side, the Panthers won by a score of 14-11.

Following the victory, Middlebury improved to 9-2 on the season and 6-1 in NESCAC play. The Panthers return to action at home on Wednesday, April 8th when they attempt to win their fourth in a row against the 4-6 Springfield College Pride in a non-conference matchup.

THE MIDDLEBURY GREAT GR8 EIGHT

RANKING	TEAM Alex's Assertions
1	TENNIS Clean sweeps all around ain't too shabby.
2	MEN'S LACROSSE After a mixed spring break, they have really turned things around in the 'CAC.
3	WOMEN'S LACROSSE Ballin' as per usual.
4	TRACK New England weather is the enemy.
5	SOFTBALL There's definitely a solid base to build upon.
6	WISCONSIN Yeah I know they didn't win, but I just really hate Duke.
7	BASEBALL Sad face.
8	MISTERWIVES Did she get sick when she realized Middlebury was in Vermont?

Tennis Goes Undefeated in NESCAC Play

By Remo Plunkett

Both the Middlebury men's and women's tennis teams returned to action this past weekend after traveling to California for multiple matches over spring break. The women played five matches while on the West Coast, emerging with a 2-3 record with wins against Chicago and Pomona-Pitzer and losses to Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, U.C. San Diego and Azusa Pacific. The men's team competed in a staggering eight matches while in southern California, recording only a pair of losses to Pomona-Pitzer and Claremont-Mudd-Scripps.

Following their spring break trips the teams returned home, with the women recording a pair of NESCAC victories against Hamilton and Conn. College on Saturday, April 4 and Sunday, April 5, respectively. The men also went undefeated on the weekend, ousting Skidmore and Hamilton on the road on Saturday before returning to Middlebury to host Conn. College on Sunday.

The sixth-ranked men's team picked up two victories at Skidmore and Hamilton to improve to 11-2 overall and 2-0 in conference play. The squad opened their weekend by securing victories in two of the three flights of doubles competition. Palmer Campbell '16 and Peter Heidrich '15 were unable to capture the top-flight victory, falling to Skidmore's duo by a score of 8-6. Ari Smolyar '16 and Noah Farrell '18 picked up the 9-7 decision in the second flight.

The Panthers' success continued in singles play, with Middlebury earning wins in five of the six flights. Smolyar was successful at number one, recording 6-4 and 6-0 scores over his Skidmore opponent. Farrell dropped his first set but rebounded with 6-1 and 10-5 wins to earn Middlebury a point in the second flight. The Thoroughbreds captured a lone point in the singles portion of the match and ultimately fell to the Panthers by a score of 7-2.

The team then faced the Hamilton Continentals and raced out to a decisive 3-0 start with 8-1 victories in all flights of doubles matches. Heidrich and Campbell, the third-ranked doubles team in the region, cruised past their competition and were mirrored by the teams of Smolyar and Farrell, and William de Quant '18 and Kyle Schlanger '18.

In singles play the team sported a varied lineup, with Courtney Mountfield '15 playing at the top spot for the first time this spring. Mountfield was unsuccessful at the top position, dropping the match 6-4, 6-4. Timo van der Geest '18 and de Quant earned wins at number three and two, respectively. Heidrich, Chris Frost '15 and Schlanger rounded out the singles play with wins for Middlebury, leveling the final score at 7-2 in favor of the Panthers.

After the pair of road victories the Panthers men returned home to face in-conference opponent Conn. College. As in the Hamilton contest, Middlebury swept the doubles matches with victories from Frost and de Quant (8-1) in the third flight, Smolyar and Farrell (8-0) at two and Heidrich and Campbell (8-6) in the first position.

The team's success continued in singles action in which the squad dropped only 12 games in four straight-set victories. Smolyar improved to 22-2 on the season in individual play, capturing a 6-1, 6-1 victory to lead the Panthers. Wins by Jackson Frons '16, de Quant and van der Geest allowed the match to be decided without need to play the final two singles matches.

With the successful weekend the Panthers improve to 11-2 on the season and return to action on Wednesday, April 8 against Williams and again on Friday, April 10 against Tufts. The pair of NESCAC matches will be played at Middlebury's Duke Nelson Arena.

The women's team also returned from California to face Hamilton on the road last week.

The Panthers picked up a 9-0 victory coming out to a strong 3-0 start in doubles play. The team dropped a total of nine games in the trio of victories. Ria Gerger '16 and Lily Bondy '17 took home an 8-1 victory in the top flight and Jennifer Sundstrom '17 and Kaysee Orozco '17 won 8-4 in the second position. Alexandra Fields '17 and Lauren Amos '16 rounded out doubles play with an identical 8-4 victory at number three.

Panther domination continued in singles play, with the team winning 72 of 89 games. Fields cruised to a decisive victory to lead the Panthers. Orozco, Margot Marchese '16, Katie Paradies '15, Sadie Shackelford '16 and Sundstrom all triumphed in their singles appearances, securing the 9-0 sweeping victory for Middlebury.

The team got back to work on Sunday, April 5, facing Conn. College at home in Middlebury. In similar fashion to the previous day's outcome at Hamilton, the Panthers swept all three flights of doubles matches. Amos and Fields struck first, earning Middlebury a point in the third flight. Sundstrom and Orozco answered with an 8-0 decision at number two and Gerger and Bondy secured the sweep with an 8-2 victory in the top flight.

Singles play was cut short as the Panthers lost just four games in the two matches needed to establish a victory on the day. Amos took the court and made it 4-0 in favor of Middlebury with a 6-1, 6-0 triumph. Gerger, ranked ninth regionally, sealed the fate of the Conn. College squad with a 6-2, 6-1 win. The rest of the singles matches went unfinished following her performance.

The successful weekend places the Panthers at 7-3 overall and they remain perfect in the NESCAC, in which they sit 2-0. The team will take the week to prepare for Saturday's in-conference match against Williams which is set to be held at home in Duke Nelson Arena.

Panthers Run, Jump, Throw Their Way to Top Finishes in Three Meets to Kick Off the Spring

By Bryan Holtzman

The track teams have started their seasons with a trio of scored meets: the Ross & Sharon Irwin Meet at Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU) in San Diego on Mar. 21, the PLNU Collegiate Invitational on Mar. 28 and the Middlebury Invitational on Apr. 3 — the first meet hosted by Middlebury in two years. Though team scores are unimportant at this point in the season, the teams were able to showcase their depth. The men garnered second, third and first place finishes, respectively, while the women took first, fourth and second.

Erzsie Nagy '17 placed second in the 1500m at the Irwin meet with a time of 4:34.32, starting her outdoor season on a level on par with her anchor run as part of Middlebury's All-American distance medley relay at the NCAA Indoor National meet. Nagy's time was the best in NCAA's Division III rankings for two weeks, and has since moved to the second-place spot.

In the men's 1500m at the Irwin meet, Sam Klockenkemper '17 and Sebastian Matt '16 turned in impressive personal record times. Klockenkemper took third overall with a time of 3:54.69, and Matt finished right behind in fourth, clocking a 3:55.79.

The PLNU Invitational held later that week was particularly notable due to the Panthers' strong conference and regional competition from New England powerhouse MIT, and NESCAC foes

Williams and Colby.

Alex Nichols '17 put his injury woes behind him in the 400m, finishing sixth with a time of 50.19 as the third NESCAC athlete across the line. Jake Wood '15 placed third in the 400m hurdles, running 55.24 in his first try at the distance this season. Tyler Farrell '18 finished sixth in the same event with a 56.54.

On the women's side, several women put in impressive performances. Sasha Whittle '17 finished second in the 5,000 meters with 19:01.64, and there was a trio of fourth-place efforts from Catie Skinner in the 3,000 meter steeplechase (11:58.8), Alex Morris '16 in the 400 meters (59.57), and Nagy in the 800 (2:16.8).

Rookie Devin Player '18 also impressed on her Panther outdoor debut. Player recorded a throw of 131'9" in the javelin to earn her fourth place. The throw is currently the best in the NESCAC and in the top 10 nationally. Carly Andersen '16 followed with two top-five finishes in the discus (120'8") and the javelin (127'6").

Back in Vermont on the afternoon of the Middlebury Invitational, the weather was reminiscent of Southern California. Despite tired legs from a week of hard training during spring break, the Panthers performed well.

Most notably, Ian Riley '16 heaved the javelin 59.10m (193'11") to win the meet — his first of the season — by 5.01m. Riley's throw was a 4.24m personal best and places him as the fifth farthest javelin thrower in Middlebury's history.

Though often overlooked in track and



MICHAEL O'HARA

Lauren Henry '16 and Natalie Cheung '18 prepare to pass the baton en route to a win in the 4x100 meter relay during the Middlebury Invitational on Friday, April 3.

field meets, the javelin has historically been one of the Middlebury men's strongest event: Bryan Black '02 and Khristoph Becker '06 won the javelin throw at NCAA's in 2002 and 2005, respectively, as the Panther men's only NCAA national champions. Both won these titles under the tutelage of current Coach Luke Hotte. Riley's throw has him sitting 12th in Division III, and would have ranked him 21st last year — just one spot out of qualifying for NCAA's.

"I think the biggest contributing factor was that my whole family came up for Easter weekend and decided they'd try to make the track meet as well. My two younger brothers always make things more fun, which keeps me relaxed. I also have an incredible throwing coach who does his very best to put up with me, and my 'technique,'" Riley said.

Aside from Riley, Hannah Blackburn '17 won the 100m hurdles, running a 15.37, and threw the shot put 10.72m to take third place. Blackburn is making the transition to becoming a heptathlete, and this is her first year throwing the shot. In Blackburn's first try this year, she threw 8.91m but has turned a weak event into a

strong one. She is currently ranked fifth in the NESCAC in the shot and third in the 100m hurdles.

On the men's side, Taylor Shortsleeve '15 was victorious in the 110 meter hurdles in a NESCAC season-best time of 15.20. Other events winners for the Panther men came from Mikey Pallozzi '18 in the 200m, Nichols in the 400m, Kevin Serrao '18 in the 800m, Chony Aispuro '18 in the 1500m, Kevin Wood '15 in the 5000m, and Jake Wood in the 400 hurdles and both relay teams. Overall, the Middlebury men won the meet handily, scoring 214 points to second-place Springfield's 163.

Following the home meet, Riley, Shortsleeve and Player were all named NESCAC athletes of the week, with Middlebury taking three of the conference's four weekly honors.

The teams will next travel to Williams to compete in the Dick Farley Invitational on Apr. 11 where they will race against Williams, SUNY-Oneonta, RPI, and Vassar. The ever-important NESCAC Championships will be held at Williams two weeks later on Apr. 25.

PANTHER SCOREBOARD

MEN'S TENNIS vs. Conn. College	7-0 W	The Panthers remain undefeated in the NESCAC after a weekend of wins.
BASEBALL vs. Amherst	20-10 L	The team remains winless this season.
MEN'S LACROSSE vs. Colby	15-12 W	An offensive showdown ended in favor of the Panthers, who improve to 9-2.
WOMEN'S LACROSSE vs. Colby	7-5 W	Five unanswered goals to start the game helped the women edge past Colby.
WOMEN'S TENNIS vs. Colby	5-0 W	The team remains undefeated in NESCAC play after a pair of in-conference wins.

EDITORS' PICKS

<p>REMO PLUNKETT (37-25, .596)</p>	Who will win Saturday's NESCAC women's tennis match between Middlebury and Williams?	Will Middlebury baseball get their first win of the season this weekend against Hamilton?	Closest to: How many games of a three-game weekend set with Hamilton will Softball win?	Series Pick 'Em: Baltimore vs. Toronto in an early-season AL East showdown.
<p>ALEX MORRIS (55-50, .523)</p>	MIDDLEBURY Eph them up!	NO Honestly 0-14 is cooler than 1-13.	TWO Hamilton has a good squad, but I think we'll pick up two W's.	TORONTO Hot up in the 6.
<p>Fritz PARKER (70-66, .519)</p>	MIDDLEBURY Is it possible to feel ed's picks burnout.	NO Emily Bustard, Midd Baseball's number one fan.	THREE Looking to put their Williams woes behind them.	BALTIMORE Trying to get in Fritz's good graces.
<p>EMILY BUSTARD (32-30, .516)</p>	WILLIAMS Hard to bet against the third-ranked Ephs.	YES The Continentals have played some trash teams this year. Panthers get their first win.	TWO Just keep the mojo going.	BLUE JAYS The Birds are a back-half team this year. It's how you finish that counts.
<p>JOE MACDONALD (49-60, .449)</p>	MIDDLEBURY The Panthers have a great 7-3 record so far.	YES I hope so!	TWO The Panthers have been playing well, but it's hard to win three games in a row.	BALTIMORE Because America.
	MIDDLEBURY I've come to realize that I am really bad at editors' picks.	YES Thanks for the love you guys.	THREE Get your brooms out.	TORONTO Just a better team. So glad baseball is back.

MAKING A SPLASH

On an uncharacteristically sunny Vermont day on Friday, April 3, the Middlebury track teams hosted their first home meet in two years. The men placed first in a five-team field, while the women finished second. SEE PAGE 23 FOR FULL COVERAGE.



MICHAEL O'HARA

Women's Lacrosse Rises in Rankings with Win over Colby

By Christine Urquhart

Improving their record to 8-1, the third-ranked Middlebury women's lacrosse team avenged last year's pair of one-goal losses to the second-ranked Colby Mules with a satisfying 7-5 victory at Bill Alford Field on Saturday, April 4. The Panthers struck early and often by jumping out to a 5-0 lead from which Colby struggled to recover. Laurel Pascal '16 started the game off with a quick goal followed by a score from Katie Ritter '15. Pascal continued Middlebury's momentum, recording her second goal of the first half. The first half scoring was completed with goals by Chrissy Ritter '16 and Mary O'Connell '17. Colby was demoralized but not broken. They stormed back with three unanswered goals narrowing the Panther's lead to 5-3 at the half.

Both teams are known for their lockdown defense, and accordingly, defensive play dominated the second half. Colby scored quickly at the start of the second half, however, Pascal responded with another

goal followed by O'Connell shortly after to give the Panthers a 7-4 lead with 23:10 left in the game. The Mules early second half goal that was their last goal until the last seven seconds of play when they scored their second goal of the half.

The victory over Colby was truly a team effort. O'Connell summarized the team's approach, stating, "Everyone on the team brings something

"This win gives us more confidence in the way we play as a team, and it only adds to our excitement as we head into the last few games of the regular season."

ALLIE HOOLEY '17
DEFENSE

different will step up and bring something new and unique to the game," she said.

Despite the fact that this was a team victory, there were many standout individual efforts by the Panthers. Cat Fowler '15 had four ground balls and two draw controls while Delaina Smith '17 added four ground balls and caused one turnover

in the victory. Colby managed to record more shots on goal than Middlebury, however, goaltender Madeleine Kinker '16 proved her talent between the pipes by stopping 10 shots, including six in the second half.

The impressive victory over Colby was the product of a lot of hard work. Allie Hooley '17 said the victory is evidence "of the team's growth over the course of this season." She added that she expected the team to improve even more as the season progresses.

"This win gives us more confidence in the way we play as a team, and it only adds to our excitement as we head into the last few games of [the] regular season."

Hooley added that "[the team] will continue to do what [they] do best to prepare for any team: work hard in practice, prepare for our game with our opponent in mind, and most importantly work on playing our own game of Middlebury lacrosse."

After the game O'Connell summarized how the team felt after the big win.

"It was great to beat Colby especially with two tough losses last year by one goal [...] we got our redemption this year," she added.

The team will return to action this week, facing Union on Tuesday, April 7 at 5:30 and Bates at home this Saturday on Kohn Field.

Softball Builds on Strong Performance

By Kelsey Hoekstra

The softball team has opened its season with a strong 9-5 start. The spring break trip to Florida was a success, where the Panthers went 7-3 before finally returning to Middlebury. They did not get much time to rest before sweeping a two game NESCAC series against Wesleyan, the third game of the series being postponed due to weather. The Panthers defeated Wesleyan 4-3 in a closely contested first game. They trailed until the fifth inning, when a pair of doubles from Kat Maehr '16 and Kelsey Martel '15 tied the game at 1-1. In the seventh inning, Middlebury scored three runs to take the lead, which Wesleyan could not counter.

Again, the Cardinals got on the board first in the second game, but that run ended up being their only one. Middlebury plated four runners in the fifth, followed by two more in the sixth to comfortably take the game 6-1. Allison Quigley '18 earned NESCAC and ECAC Division III New England Region Pitcher of the Week honors for her impressive rookie start. She posted a 4-1 record with four games started and six appearances, posting an ERA of just 1.77 over 27.2 innings. She earned both of the wins against Wesleyan.

After a few games had been postponed due to weather, the team finally opened its home season on Friday, April 3, in a double header against Williams. The team got an early lead in the first inning when Maehr brought Hye-Jin Kim '17 in to score the first run. In the third they added two runs off of doubles from Maehr, Carlyn Vachow '16 and Sarah Freyre '17. The Ephs responded fiercely with two runs in the

fourth inning and three runs in the sixth to take the lead. Middlebury scored one more run in the bottom of the sixth when Emma Hamilton '17 capitalized on a fielding error, but that was not enough to come back and win the game as Williams held on for a 6-4 victory.

The second game started as a defensive battle, as the score remained tied at 0-0 up until the sixth inning when Williams drove in four runs. The Panthers tried to answer but were unable to complete the comeback, leaving two runners on base in the bottom of the inning. The Ephs followed up with three more unearned runs to end the game with a three-hit shutout win. Defensive errors contributed dramatically to this score, as five of Williams' seven runs were unearned.

Despite this loss, Martel remains optimistic.

"Overall, we're really pleased with the way our season is going," Martel said. "We're lucky in the sense that we've got a lot of depth. A lot of girls that can contribute in a lot of different ways [are] on our roster this year. Our matchup against Williams definitely tested us, but I'm confident that our group will be able to bounce back to continue what success we've already had. A bump in the road only makes for a better driver, after all."

Unfortunately, the final game of the Williams series had to be postponed due to weather. The makeup date is set for Sunday, April 12. The Panthers have a busy weekend ahead. Before they can finish the interrupted series with Williams, Middlebury will travel to Clinton, NY to play Hamilton in a three game set.

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